

Hafa Adai!

Ex-Tinian mayor's employee gets 15-day prison term. **PAGE 2**
OPA gets highest rating in peer review. **PAGE 6**

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75¢

'Piece was politically motivated'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Both Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC have belied the allegations raised in a Bloomberg article about the casino industry in the CNMI, with the governor describing them as blatantly false. The casino operator assured that it obeys all laws and regulations of the CNMI and the United States.



Torres

In a statement on Friday, Torres denied any illegal activity with IPI and that allegations contained in the story are from the perspective of an "off-island writer from London with limited exposure to our people, cul-

See **PIECE** on **Page 4**

Mt. Carmel tops HS mock trial

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

Mount Carmel School successfully defended its title after winning the 20th Annual High School Mock Trial last Friday at the CNMI Supreme Court, making the team the CNMI's representative at the national championship in Reno, Nevada in May.

Tinian High School placed second, while Marianas High School placed third.

The competition was presided by Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona of the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

MCS president Galvin Guerrero couldn't be prouder of the MCS team. "Half of the team that com-

See **MT. CARMEL** on **Page 4**

Lunar New Year Party is the festival to beat

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Organizers of the Lunar New Year Party delivered on its promise of a grand party, as hundreds came out, locals and tourists alike, to witness a jaw-dropping program at the Garapan Fishing Base last weekend and to gain knowledge on how the

lunar year is incorporated in different cultures.

Despite the pouring rain, the Lunar New Year Party was the festival that could possibly top all the other festivals in the CNMI, according to Gordon Marciano, Lunar New Year Party Committee vice chairman.

On Friday and Saturday, the festi-

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One of the acrobats of the Shanghai Sinma Acrobatic Troupe performs at the Lunar New Year Party at the Garapan Fishing Base last Friday.

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KIMBERLY BAUTISTA



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The Marianas Visitors Authority launches a new approach to reach free independent travelers.

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LOCAL

Two private companies launch their first affordable housing project in the CNMI.

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LOCAL

The 14th Annual Pika Festival drew crowds from far-flung areas like California and Alaska.

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Local

Ex-Tinian mayor's employee gets 15-day prison term

A former employee of the Tinian Mayor's Office facing charges of domestic violence, threats to kill police officers, and spitting on a police officer, has pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 15 days in prison.

Eugene Atalig San Nicolas Jr., 23, pleaded guilty to assault and battery.

At a hearing on Tinian last

week, Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja sentenced San Nicolas to one year, all suspended except for 15 days.

San Nicolas was given credit for nine days of time already served. He will serve the remaining six days starting last Friday. It means he will get out of jail this Thursday, Feb. 22, at 4:30pm.

Naraja placed San Nicolas on supervised probation for a year, ordered him to pay a \$500 fine, \$25 in court assessment fee, plus probation fee. He was required to perform 75 hours of community service and complete counseling.

San Nicolas beat up his common-law wife on Tinian on Jan. 23, 2017.

As part of the plea deal,

assistant attorney general Jonathan L. Wilberscheid, counsel for the government, moved to dismiss

The remaining charges of disturbing the peace, resisting arrest, and fleeing a police officer were dropped.

Police stated that San Nicolas banged the victim's head against the door, threw her on the bed, slapped her face,

pulled her hair, and dragged her out of the room during their argument.

The victim tried to get her children, but San Nicolas pushed her out and left.

When the police later came, San Nicolas came on a scooter, stopped in front of the apartment, yelled profanities at two police officers, showed them his middle finger, and sped away.

When a police officer told him he would be arrested for domestic violence, he shouted profanities at the officers and sped away.

San Nicolas later went back to his apartment, where he locked himself. Two police officers responded again, but the defendant refused to come out and threatened he would shoot them with his gun.

The officers barged inside the room and arrested San Nicolas, who allegedly resisted and challenged the officers to a fight.

On the way to the police station inside a patrol car, San Nicolas allegedly spat twice on the face of one officer and threatened he would shoot them. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Man who sued after being denied disability insurance benefits gets attorney's fees

The federal court has awarded attorney's fees to a man who sued Social Security for allegedly denying him disability insurance benefits.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy ordered Friday that Matthew John Seman Fejeran be awarded \$7,250 in attorney's fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act, and \$400 in costs.

Kennedy gave the order after the lawyers for Fejeran and SS Commissioner Nancy A. Berryhill agreed to a settlement of Fejeran's request for attorney's fees and court cost reimbursement.

The amount represents compensation for all legal

services rendered on behalf of Fejeran by his lawyers, Pamela Brown-Blackburn and Kark E. Osterhout, in connection with Fejeran's lawsuit. The U.S. Attorney's Office served as counsel for Berryhill.

The parties said their stipulation settles Fejeran's request for attorney fees and is not an admission of liability on the part of Berryhill.

The payment of the attorney's fees shall constitute a complete release from and bar to any and claims Fejeran may have relating to attorney fees in connection with his court action.

Kennedy further ordered that if, after receiving the court's EAJA fees order,

the SS commissioner determines that Fejeran does not owe a debt that is subject to offset under the Treasury Offset Program, the fees will be made payable to Fejeran's attorney.

However, Kennedy said, if there is a debt owed under the Treasury Offset Program, the remaining EAJA fees, after offset, will be paid by a check made out to Fejeran but delivered to his attorney.

The parties agreed that under the statute, EAJA fees awarded by the court belong to Fejeran and are subject to offset under the Treasury Offset Program.

The parties said the court should therefore order the

EAJA fees to his/her attorney.

In his lawsuit, Fejeran asked the court to reverse the SS commissioner's denial of his claim.

Blackburn said Fejeran has exhausted administrative remedies and that the court has jurisdiction for judicial review.

Blackburn said then-SS commissioner Carolyn Colvin denied Fejeran's claim for disability insurance benefits as it was her determination that plaintiff is not disabled under the Social Security Act.

Blackburn said the denial is not supported by the weight of the evidence, plaintiff's credibility, and medical opinions of his doctors. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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USCIS no longer accepts power of attorney signatures

WASHINGTON—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has announced that petitioners and applicants who seek immigration benefits must provide a valid signature on forms submitted to the agency.


In an effort to protect and safeguard the nation's immigration system and those who benefit from it, power of attorney signatures will no longer be accepted. If forms are filed by a corporation or other legal entity, they must be signed by an authorized person. The new policy is effective March 18, 2018.

This updates an interim memorandum that outlined the elements of a valid signature and permitted entities that filed petitions with USCIS to use the signature of an individual based on a power of attorney. Because of concerns about consistency and

program integrity, USCIS reversed the interim memorandum's policy on power of attorney signatures.

The prohibition on power of attorney signatures does not affect signatures on behalf of individuals younger than age 14 or those with disabilities. The final memorandum makes additional changes such as providing that an authorized signatory must be employed by the petitioner and that USCIS may reject a form submitted with a faulty signature instead of offering the opportunity to fix the deficiency.

USCIS will publish revised instructions for individual forms to clearly specify the applicable signature requirements. USCIS will also address requirements for electronic signatures in future guidance. (*USCIS*)



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35

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'We need to entice other airlines to service Japan route'

Tasi Tours director Masato Tezuka wants the administration of Ralph DLG Torres to lure other carriers to fly the CNMI skies now, even as the Commonwealth prepares for the pullout of Delta Air Lines in May.

"Delta is one of the mega global airlines in the world and their business strategy is more focused on the corporate market than the leisure market," he said.

"But if we can promote other airlines which shows interest in the leisure market from Japan to Saipan, there will be a big possibility for the Japanese market to come back again," he added.

Tezuka believes that Delta's shift from targeting leisure market to corporate market is the reason for suspending flights to Guam and soon to Saipan and Palau.

"Since Delta's focus market has changed, I can understand the reason for pulling out their business in the Micronesia area, including Guam, Saipan, and Palau. Since the decision is based on a business strategy, the CNMI government will find difficulty changing Delta's direction," he said.

Tezuka said there are many things about Saipan that makes it an ideal destination for Japanese tourists.

"If you think about it, Saipan has a lot to offer to the

Japanese market. The travel from Japan to Saipan is only three hours flight time, beautiful nature including ocean and mountains, new investments on infrastructure by the private sector, destination enhancement projects of the Marianas Visitors Authority and, most importantly, the long relationship and history between Japan and Saipan," he said.

"I believe that we can reconstruct the tourism market from Japan to the CNMI. Tasi Tours is committed to work-

ing with MVA with the aim to entice the Japanese market to return to Saipan," he added.

In a recent interview with MVA managing director Chris Concepcion, he said the upcoming pullout of Delta on Saipan will not discontinue promotions of CNMI tourism in Japan.

"The Japan market is too valuable for us to lose sight of, so we will not. We are not cutting back on any promotion for the Japan market. MVA will continue with our plans," he said. *(Bea Cabrera)*

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PIECE

From Page 1

ture, history, and beauty of the CNMI.”

In a separate statement on Sunday, IPI said it repudiates all allegations of wrongdoing cited in the article.

According to the Bloomberg Businessweek piece published on Feb. 15, 2018, titled, “A Chinese Casino Has Conquered a Piece of America,” it said, among other things, that “in the first eight months of 2017, according to the regulators’ records, Imperial Pacific paid Torres Brothers \$126,000.” One transaction, according to the article, said a relative of the governor received a payoff of \$4 million at one time.

Torres Brothers refers to the law office of the governor’s brothers, composed of Vincent, Victorino, and Joaquin. Torres also used to work there as office manager before going into politics.

In his statement, Torres said: “Any allegations contained within this story are blatantly false and are apparently perpetuated by individuals who hold a minority opinion, aiming to score cheap political points at the expense of our islands’ image in the world stage,” he said.

In a separate interview Friday, Torres belied the al-

legation that all of IPI’s requests were granted by his administration.

According to Torres, he used his power to line-item veto part of the bill that was supposed to exempt IPI from a particular tax, allowing him to veto just a part of the bill instead of the whole bill.

“There was a bill that I line-item vetoed and that was the \$3-million tax waiver for Best Sunshine. They say 100 percent. Then why did I line item vetoed a \$3-million tax exempt? Why is Best Sunshine not exempt from excise tax?” he pointed out.

Torres expects more allegations against him to pop up in the months to come as it is election year. “It’s easy to say they [the government] are all corrupt. ...Yes, I am running for governor and the target is me, of course.”

The governor also denied going on trips to Hong Kong for IPI and that he is on IPI’s payroll.

“That’s ridiculous. ...I would like to see a contract where I am on [the IPI] payroll... trips to Hong Kong for IPI did not happen,” he said.

“There’s nothing to hide. Everything they want to find out is there. Whatever they need to ask or question it’s obviously there.”

Notably, the author of the Bloomberg article made minimum mention of Torres’ side

in the article. According to Torres, he met with Matthew Campbell, the writer of the piece, back in September 2016 to answer questions “several weeks leading up to the story’s publication.”

“We submitted an [eight]-page response to the writer’s questions, clarifying the numerous allegations made against me, my administration, and my family. However, our responses were not fully included into the overall story,” Torres said.

“The story pays no attention to the pain our families felt during the economic downturn, or the sacrifices our retirees, our elderly, and our families had to make, and it does not speak to the many jobs we have created or how the lives in our community are better now than they were during the dark days of our economy. The one-sided sources and selective interviews in this story just showcase that this is truly an election year, and some would rather tarnish our islands for their own self-promotions. It is unfortunate, but we will continue pushing forward for progress in our islands and for a better future for every single person who calls these islands home,” he added.

The administration did not respond to a question if it plans to pursue legal action against Bloomberg.

The Governor’s Office did

provide *Saipan Tribune* with responses to questions brought up in the article, such as the string of transactions related to Torres’ family members.

The governor said that implying land purchases from relatives of CNMI public officials “lacks an understanding of the size of the CNMI and that many public officials have extended families.”

According to the administration response, the governor has 70 first cousins and that his mother was one of 13 children.

“By looking at select transactions, this question overlooks that nearly all land-owners on Saipan have had transactions with [IPI], primarily because land ownership remains with those of Northern Mariana descent and that land is limited.”

Torres said generally the same thing in a separate interview on Friday. He pointed out that the CNMI is small “IPI came to purchase one of my sister-in-law’s properties, just like I’m sure a lot of folks sell or lease their properties,” he said. “...All of the questions were focused on myself and my whole family. Why don’t we look at others, on how much they make and how many properties they have sold in the CNMI? Now you single out one property that was purchased by Best Sunshine versus the hundred properties that have been pur-

chased by other companies.”

IPI statement

IPI, in a statement, assured that it strives for “nothing less than full compliance with all laws and regulations of the CNMI and the United States.”

It also pointed out that Bloomberg has a beef with IPI.

“Imperial Pacific believes that the article is just another enumeration of false claims similar to other similar Bloomberg articles involving Imperial Pacific. It is apparent that the article was written to negatively attack Imperial Pacific, its owners and agents, the Commonwealth Casino Commission, the CNMI government and its leaders, and individual members of the CNMI community,” said the statement, adding that they have “remain steadfast” in meeting its obligations to the development of the gaming and resort industries in the CNMI.

It accused Bloomberg of merely undermining confidence in the CNMI’s casino gaming industry and, although it did not rule out any legal action, IPI did not say anything about going to court over the article.

Kilili: Investigation needed

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) described the article’s allegations as “extremely serious.” Sablan believes federal law enforcement, the Attorney General, and the Office of the Public Auditor should investigate because “the people of the Mariana Islands deserve to know the truth.”

“...the governor, his family, and other public officials named in this article deserve an opportunity to clear their

names,” he added.

Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan), who was also quoted in the story, said he stands by what he told the reporter a few months back.

The story quoted Propst as saying, “I believe that Imperial Pacific runs this government. ...Any legislation they’ve ever wanted goes their way 100 percent of the time. Not 99 percent of the time. One hundred.”

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Propst said that he still believes the situation to be so.

“Look to every legislation that has benefitted the casino. We’ve had opportunities to either tax them or to assess new fees, but we never do it,” he said, adding that taxes and fees must have been in place from the start.

“It’s our failure to plan that consistently gets us into these problems that we’re dealing with and it’s frustrating to see that,” he said.

According to Propst, anytime discussions are brought up on taxing the casino, “it’s thrown out the window; we can’t touch it.”

“We need to look at getting a better deal for our people,” Propst added.

When asked who he thinks is behind the bad press, Torres said, “I definitely don’t want to accuse people. I, for one, have been accused of so many things that I didn’t do so I don’t want to accuse anybody. Whoever is doing it and whatever it is, it’s freedom of press,” said Torres.

“There will be more allegations this year. It’s political year and whatever it is that they want to find out, everything is open book,” he added. *(With Bea Cabrera)*



The Mount Carmel School team rejoices after being announced the 2018 High School Mock Trial champions last Friday and will represent the CNMI in the HS Mock Trial national championship in Reno, Nevada in May 2018.

BEA CABRERA

MT. CARMEL

From Page 1

peted this year was their first time, the students who played attorneys this year were their first time. The winning team last year were mostly seniors and they all left, so this year was a tremendous challenge but this was [made] possible by the support of the parents, the entire school family, and our attorney coach Garth Backe and...all the students who worked really hard,” he said.

He credited their winning performance to teamwork.

“We had a bench team, we had a junior high team and it was a very big team and they all helped out each other... We will take a week or two off and then we will get back to get ready for the national[s],” he added.

Justin Ocampo, an MCS junior high student, said the

team “worked very hard to get here and I commend the high school students but also the teachers and lawyers that worked so hard, preparing us for this competition,” he said. “I feel very happy and proud for this opportunity to represent the CNMI.”

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio congratulated all the participants.

“All the students come in as winners and I really feel it’s tough for the jurors—the lawyers who score them because you are judging a bunch of kids who are already excellent. ...The competition... gives the students some type of exposure so they are not just coming in as fresh competitors,” she said.

“I’ve been fortunate enough to have the opportunity to see this in different aspects as I was once a coach, state coordinator, and now I judge the

competitions. It was...great to see the dedication of the students,” she added.

Kim-Tenorio said the CNMI Judiciary will be involved in helping prepare the MCS team for the nationals. She will sit in to give the students tips to hone their skills.

The jurors in the final round of the high school mock trial competitions were Jim Sirok, Nicole Ripple, Gil Birnbrich, Janet King, and Ben Hale.

This was not Sirok’s first time to judge the final round and has been involved in moot court judging for four to five years already. “I see the improvement every year and I think more participants are involved than when we started out years ago,” Sirok said.

“Coaching is one of the factors why this competition is improving every time. I didn’t know how many attorneys were involved, if at all, in the early years but now you have

attorneys involved as well as just teachers. You also have students that are committed that are just like a sports team,” he added.

The schools that participated was composed of public and private schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Acting Education Commissioner Glen Muña praised the students’ performance and commended the schools and students that got individual awards.

The Best Prosecution Witness award went to Kevin Wolf of Marianas High School; Best Defense Witness went to Theresa Zheng of Mount Carmel School, Anna Nunez of Grace Christian Academy, and Jonan Pohl of Marianas High School; Best Prosecution/Defense Attorney went to Shea Hartig of Saipan International School; and the Supreme Court Professionalism Award went to Grace Christian Academy.

LUNAR

From Page 1

val did not see a decrease in the number of people in the audience, thanks to the phenomenal performance of the Shanghai Sinma Acrobatic Troupe.

The public—children, adults, and teenagers alike—were hooked from the beginning of the troupe’s performance, from the extraordinary stunts to the unbelievable acrobatics.

According to festivalgoer Belle David, the festival was unlike any of the ones she has attended over the years. David said the acrobats really made the festival nothing short of amazing.

The festival also highlighted the accomplishments of 200 students from the CNMI public schools. At the festival’s opening ceremony, students from various public schools throughout the Commonwealth were recognized for improving significantly in

their studies throughout the first semester of school year 2017-2018. Each student was given a traditional red envelope that children usually get during the Lunar New Year.

One of the festival’s highlights was the first ever dog parade in the Commonwealth, called a Barkus Parade. The parade signified the New Year zodiac sign of the dog. The parade featured over 50 dogs dressed in outfits.

The cultural aspect was in the form of how the lunar calendar was used in celestial navigation in ancient time.

According to Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, the event turned out better than he expected and he wants to discuss making the event an annual festival because it was both educational and entertaining.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion said that if the committee intends to make it an event annual, MVA would continue to back the committee.

Judge assigned to petition filed by prisoner serving 45 years

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood has been assigned to handle the request of a prisoner for a lawyer.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona recused herself from presiding over the petition and re-assigned the matter to Tydingco-Gatewood.

Rios is serving a 45-year prison term for sex crimes.

Manglona disqualified herself from the case as her husband, Associate Justice John A. Manglona, sat on the CNMI Supreme Court panel that considered Rios' appeal.

In a handwritten petition

that he filed *pro se* (without a lawyer), Rios, 43, said he is unable to afford a counsel.

Rios said that Department of Corrections Commissioner Vincent S. Attao had denied his request to use a computer with internet access so he could do research to support his case.

Rios said he talked with three lawyers over the phone if they could assist him in his petition for a writ of habeas corpus.

Rios said the three lawyers told him they can't assist him due to lack of payment for attorney's fees, lack of their knowledge in federal habeas corpus proceedings, and being busy with other clients' cases.

Rios had also written the same complaint to the Superior Court.

Last month, after receiving Rios' handwritten letter, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho set a status conference for

March 14 at 9am.

Rios did not indicate the reasons for his motions.

According to court records, Rios pleaded guilty in 1997 to three counts of sexual abuse of a child, two counts of oral

copulation, and one count of rape. He was sentenced to five years imprisonment.

After his release from prison in 2003, Rios re-offended and was sentenced to five years.

In 2012, he re-offended again. The government revoked his probation in both

the 1997 and 2003 cases.

In 2012, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho sentenced Rios to 45 years for the 1997 and 2003 cases.

Rios appealed, but the CNMI Supreme Court affirmed his conviction and the 45-year prison term. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

Chopper eyed between Northern Islands, Saipan

A helicopter that is expected to arrive in April is being eyed to serve as transportation to and from the Northern Islands.

According to Northern Islands Mayor Vicente Cruz Santos Jr., he met twice in the last week with Rob Combs from the Marianas Aviation Services and Combs expressed interest in

providing the service.

Santos said that Combs was able to confirm that a five-passenger chopper would arrive on Saipan around April.

The Northern Islands mayor said the helicopter could serve as a gateway for Northern Islanders on Saipan to at least visit their former home.

About 50 families on Pagan were evacuated and brought to Saipan in 1981 after a volcanic eruption. Many are still on Saipan.

"The problem has always been good transportation. Good transportation would mean more people could move back," he said.

According to Santos, the

only means of transportation to Pagan right now is a vessel that travels to the island of Pagan and back to Saipan once every three months.

Santos said there are currently six people on Pagan and about four on Agrigan. The chopper would be chartered by Northern Islands Mayor's Office. About 100 Pagan natives are still on Saipan. **(Kimberly A. Bautista)**



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OPA gets highest rating in peer review



The CNMI Office of the Public Auditor has received the highest rating possible for its quality control peer review.

In compliance with generally accepted government auditing standards, OPA undergoes an external peer review every three years. The purpose of this review is to determine if OPA's internal quality control system is suitably designed and operating effectively. OPA received full compliance rating for the period Oct. 1, 2014, to Sept. 30, 2017.

The peer review was conducted by the Association of Pacific Islands Public Auditors, composed of Pohnpei State Office of the Public Auditor's Audit manager Alice Etse, assistant auditor general Atmita Jonathan, and

audit supervisor Maludrik Maludrik of the Republic of the Marshall Islands Office of the Auditor General.

The team tested OPA's adherence to government auditing standards issued by the comptroller general of the United States.

OPA's last peer review in 2014 yielded the same rating of full compliance.

OPA is grateful to the APIPA peer review team for its efforts and professionalism displayed throughout the duration of the review. OPA extends great appreciation to the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs who grants APIPA the funding to perform the peer reviews in the Micronesian region. (PR)

Military training at FDM, Tinian

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla from today, Feb. 19, to Feb. 23, from 8am to 7pm.

The military will also conduct training at the North Field on Tinian during the following dates and times:

■ Feb. 20, from 1pm to 3:15pm

■ Feb. 21, from noon to 2:15pm

■ Feb. 23, from 3pm to 9pm

It is recommended the pub-

lic, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

These trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. (PR)

The CNMI Office of the Public Auditor, led by Public Auditor Mike Pai, center, has received the highest rating possible for its quality control peer review.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Thank You Saipan



Express Financial would like to say thanks to the many Saipan residents we have served over the past 5 years.

We would also like to extend a special thanks to our very special retailer **Town House**.

To show our appreciation, **Express Financial** will be giving away a \$500 shopping spree at **Town House**. We will be hosting refreshments and giveaways all day in our store located across from Pay Less Shoes on February 22, 2018 from 8:00 AM-5:00 PM.

To Register for the drawing just complete the entry form and take it to **Express Financial** located on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Rd in the village of San Jose across from Pay Less Shoes phone 235-6032. You may also pickup an entry form at **Town House**.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Work: _____

Date of Birth: _____

No purchase necessary. Drawing will be held February 22, 2018. Need not be present to win. One entry per household. No facsimiles allowed. Prize entry names may be used for advertising purposes.



WANTED

NEWS REPORTER

The *Saipan Tribune* is looking for a FULL-TIME news reporter.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Above average writing skills and can work within deadlines;
- Fast learner, self-starter, and a team player;
- Computer literate;
- With photography skills;
- Must have reliable means of transportation.

If you have what it takes to be part of a dynamic team, email your résumé and samples of your work to editor@saipantribune.com. You may also drop it off at the *Saipan Tribune* office on the second floor of the JP Center Building on Beach Road, Garapan. ON-ISLAND HIRES PREFERRED.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer. Qualified women, minorities, and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Blood pressure, sugar checks at NMC Health Fair

Participants who attend the Northern Marianas College's Nursing Club's Health Fair would be able to receive free blood pressure and sugar assessments.

The health fair will be held on Saturday, Feb. 24, 2018,

from 8am to 12pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

The health fair activities will run from 8am until 12pm and will also feature a 5K Walk from 6am to 8am. Registration for the 5K Walk starts at

5:30am. Entrance to the health fair and the 5K Walk are free.

Those who attend the health fair can also take advantage of other free health services, including the flu immunizations and health counseling.

The CHCC Immunization

Program, the Division of Youth Services, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, the Commonwealth Cancer Association, and Hardt Eye Clinic will be joining other organizations that will be hosting information and demonstration booths.

"It is important to our club to promote healthy living in our community," said NMC Nursing Club president Kaiza Lucido. "We hope to have as many participants take this opportunity to get preliminary health check-ups and use the

health resources we are gathering for this event."

The health fair is supported with the assistance from the CNMI Area Health Education Center, and other NMC and community volunteers.

For additional information about the NMC Health Fair, contact the NMC Nursing Club at 237-6741/6743. (NMC)



NMC Nursing Club members and faculty administrators engage with community members at last year's health fair. This year's 9th annual Health Fair will take place on Saturday, Feb. 24, 2018, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center from 8am to 12pm and will feature a 5K walk at 6am.

NMC

Torres signs HB 20-135

On Friday, Feb. 16, 2018, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed into law House Bill 20-135, SD4, which amends the fiscal year 2018 budget law, Public Law 20-11, to reflect the revised budget of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and others.

Authored by Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), the appropriation bill provides for the following:

- \$50.5 million authorization for CUC's power plant fuel budget;

- \$155,476 for the Micronesian Legal Services Corp.;

- \$200,000 for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Diabetes Care and Control Center

- Inclusion of hazardous work premium payment for qualified solid waste employees assigned to designated solid waste landfills, facilities, dumpsites, and transfer stations

- Provisions for the administration of the Commonwealth Worker fees by the CNMI Scholarship Office to ensure that the Northern Marianas Trades Institute shall be allocated not less than \$1,000,000 of the CW fees.

This bill becomes Public Law 20-41. (PR)

"A Tradition of Excellence!"

Dr. Dennis Williams, a renowned eye surgeon, continues the tradition of excellence at Marianas Eye Institute.

- Received a CNMI House Resolution, "for conducting the CNMI's first Corneal Transplant"
- Listed in "Best Doctors in America"
- Board Certified Ophthalmologist

Prior Experience:

- Assistant Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, USF
- Director of Corneal Transplant and Refractive Surgery St. Luke's Cataract and Laser Institute, Florida
- Board of Directors, American Board of Eye Surgery
- President, Cataract Teaching Foundation
- Instructor, American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery

We welcome Aetna, Self-pay, Staywell, Netcare, Calvo's, TakeCare, Medicaid, Medicare, Tricare, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and more!



235-9090

Walk-in's welcome
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Three ways to get your sauce on



Grand Big Mac™
860 Cal.

Mac Jr.®
460 Cal.

Big Mac®
540 Cal.

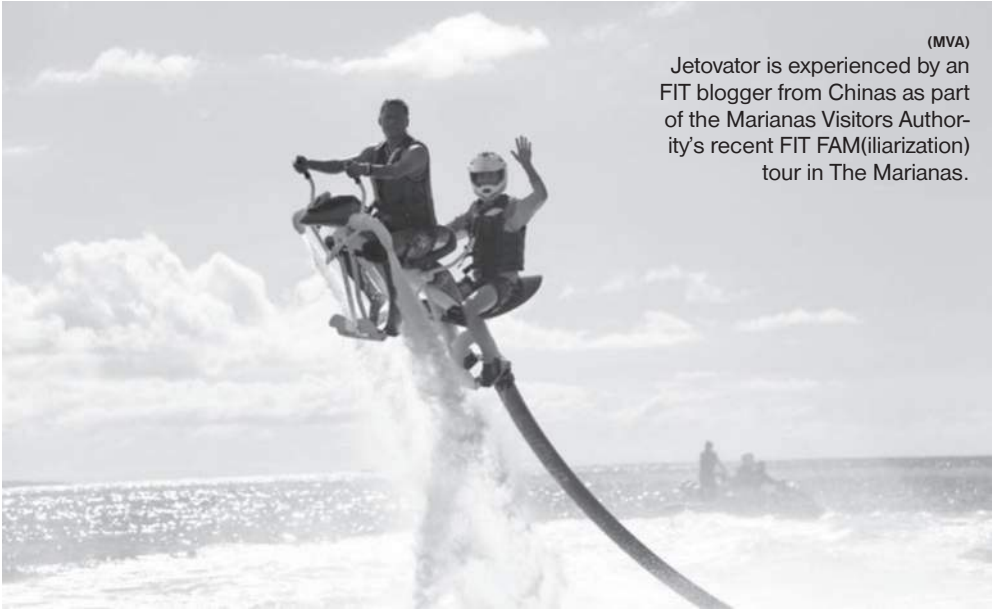
LIMITED TIME

LIMITED TIME

STORE HOURS: Garapan Express: OPEN 24 HRS [24/7] • Chalan Pale Arnold Road: 6:30am to 10:00pm
Chalan Pale Arnold Road 235-8577 • Garapan Express 233-8577 • Office Tel. 235-8761 • Fax. 235-8760 • E-mail: admin@jcamcd.com



(MVA)
FIT blogger Vivi Lan from China experiences skydiving on Jan. 4, 2018, as part of the Marianas Visitors Authority's recent FIT FAM(iliarization) tour in The Marianas.



(MVA)
Jetovator is experienced by an FIT blogger from China as part of the Marianas Visitors Authority's recent FIT FAM(iliarization) tour in The Marianas.

MVA uses bloggers to reach China FITS

The Marianas Visitors Authority has launched a new approach to reach free independent travelers, also called FITs, from China, leveraging the power of influential bloggers.

FITs comprise a growing number of visitors to the Marianas, choosing to make their own travel arrangements versus booking a tour package.

So far, posts from the tour held on Dec. 29, 2017, to Jan. 5, 2018, have received over 10,000 retweets, comments and likes on Sina Weibo, China's equivalent of Facebook.


The bloggers on the tour were Song Jun, Dong Lei, Vivi Lan, and Shang Li with over 2.4 million followers combined on Sina Weibo.

"In our work to target FITs directly, the MVA will be hosting further blogger FA[familiarization] trips from March to May to explore more of our beautiful Marianas, including Tinian and Rota," said MVA marketing manager Broc Calvo.

During the five-day New Year in the Marianas trip, the bloggers joined a fireworks party at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, explored various means of transportation for FIT tourists to explore Saipan, and visited scenery spots including the Grotto, Managaha, Bird Island Lookout, Micro Beach, Kalabera Cave, Forbidden Island, and Mt. Tapochao. Sampled activities included banana boat, snorkeling, skydive, jetovator, UTV, and SeaTouch marine animal encounter.

In addition, the bloggers also visited MVA member shops for catering and entertainment, such as Avis Rent a Car, Country House Restaurant, IHop, Bubba Gump Shrimp Co., I Love Saipan, T Galleria by DFS, and more.

In-depth travel notes will also be posted by the bloggers with online travel agents like mafengwo.cn. (MVA)



CANCELLATION OF RFP MVA-RFP-18-2009


For: Local Publication and Media Services

This is to notify bidders and prospective bidders that **MVA-RFP-18-2009** has been cancelled in accordance with NMIAC 90-20-301. MVA has determined that cancellation was in the best interests of MVA because of inadequate specifications were contained in the solicitation. The RFP is cancelled and all proposals are hereby rejected.

MVA understands that firms went through great efforts in preparing a response for the above mentioned IFBs, and apologizes for any inconvenience this cancellation may have caused.

/s/ Gloria C. Cavanagh
Chairperson, Board of Directors


/s/ Judy C. Toress
Acting Managing Director



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.net



NOTICE OF AUCTION

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all the rights, title and interests of NMHC in and to the following described real property will be sold at auction:


LOT NO.	PROPERTY LOCATION	MINIMUM BID
008 T 239	MARPO HEIGHTS, TINIAN	\$73,000.00
021 T 15	SAN JOSE, TINIAN	\$80,000.00
107 T 139	CAROLINAS HEIGHTS, TINIAN	\$35,000.00

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, March 12, 2018 subject to the following terms and conditions:

- Minimum Bid.** The minimum acceptable bid for the properties are as indicated above.
- Reserve.** The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
- Rights and Duties of NMHC as Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, NMHC shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
 - To withdraw any property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
 - To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - To reject any and all bids.
- Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the properties listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021;
- Deposit: Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale by cash, cashier's check or credit card (Visa or Mastercard). The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will automatically revert to NMHC. Also failure to deposit the 10% of the purchase price on the same day will subject NMHC to award the winning bid to the next highest bidder. All auction terms and rules must apply to the next highest bidder.
- Change of Terms.** NMHC reserves the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
- Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. The interests of NMHC in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property or any related documents will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 6th day of February, 2018.


/s/ Jesse S. Palacios,
Corporate Director



UNITED STATES
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING



Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold its 2nd Quarter General Membership Meeting on March 1, 2018, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the LaoLao Bay & Golf Resort – Caladium Room

AGENDA

- Call to Order**
- Roll Call**
- Review & Adoption of Agenda of March 1, 2018**
- Review & Adoption of Meeting Minutes of January 25, 2018**
- Action Items**
 - Ratify/Approval of Partial Award of FY 2018 DD Basic Grant Budget
 - Ratify/Approval of Partial Award of FY 2018 AT Program Grant Budget
 - Ratify/Approval of CDD FY 2019 Local Budget
 - Ratify/Approval of FY 2018 CDD Work Plan
 - Ratify/Approval of FY 2019 CDD Work Plan
 - Ratify/Approval of FY 2020 CDD Work Plan
- Reports**
 - Chairperson
 - State Plan Committee Chairperson
 - Fiscal Committee Chairperson
 - Executive Director
- Old Business**
 - CRSP Volunteer Respite Training
 - Developmental Disabilities & Employment Awareness Month
- New Business**
 - Video Remote Interpreting and Remote Captioning
- Miscellaneous**
- Next Meeting - May 2018**
- Adjournment**

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session. In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Efrén Nicholas
Chairperson

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A (Administrative)

See how far we'll go.



See how far we'll go.

HEALTH

AUTO

HOME



StayWell

INSURANCE

For more than 30 years, we've given our members the very best protection for the things they value the most. We take pride in the little things we do everyday that strengthen our values and show our commitment to you.

Our new look is a testament to our adaptability of a changing world, but our mission to serve will only get stronger. We invite you to join in this journey and *see how far we'll go.*

Low-cost housing project breaks ground



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, center, leads the groundbreaking ceremony of Isa Villas Partners LCC and Pacific Rim Land Development LLC affordable housing project held last Friday on Capital Hill

BEA CABRERA

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Isa Villas Partners LCC and Pacific Rim Land Development LLC launched their first affordable housing project in the CNMI in a groundbreaking ceremony on Capitol Hill last Friday.

The project is called Isa Villas and will be the first affordable housing project along Guguan and Anatahan Drive on Capitol Hill. It will consist of 27 units: 15 three-bedroom units and 12 four-bedroom units.

According to Joshua Sasamoto, the partner in Isa Villas Partners LLC and president of the Marianas Non-Profit Homes, the project will be built through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program, which is overseen by the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.

"As someone who was born and raised here, I know the need for low-cost housing. This is near and dear to my heart as the need for housing grows, particularly the need for

affordable housing," he said.

"We have already seen residents being priced out in the market and we are happy to increase the housing stock on island. In addition to that, you really cannot downplay the economic and community development aspect and being a local guy, I am really proud of that," he added.

Sasamoto said the CW situation on island was a challenge, but reiterated that Pacific Rim is an established company with a lot of resources.

"Together, we have been

able to get what we need. It wasn't the easiest and cheapest way but we are here. ... We are really excited to start this and look forward to similar projects in the future," he added.

Keith Stewart, president of Pacific Rim Land Development, is the general contractor for the project.

"We didn't want future residents to go out of their doors and see asphalt and concrete and this area on Capitol Hill has given us a unique property. It is the perfect environment for families as you see the ocean on

one side and lots of greens on the other side," he said.

"What we are doing is, aside from the drive access in the buildings, we do have a community center with open areas between. There's a kitchen on one side of the villa for events," he added.

Stewart said that Isa Villas will have programs with non-profit groups for the benefit of residents.

"We are working with non-profit organizations on island to provide support and training with the residents here. Being that it's an affordable housing complex, we want to be able to utilize the facility to help develop families," he said.

"The vision is, hopefully, when they live here, they are in a much better position in their lives. So this is not just a housing project, we intend to put programs as well to promote livelihood," he added.

Gov. Ralph Torres graced the occasion and said that affordable housing is what the community needs and looks forward to more projects that will be built in coming months.

"This is just the first phase—27 units will be built and eventually up to 84 units in the next year on a nice, beautiful location. We have a shortage of house and homes and having this gives those people who are in need an opportunity to have better and secure homes," he said.

"This development is another indication of our need for additional workers. ... Our economy continues to grow or at least stabilize. I'm glad that Pacific Rim was able to continue the project and hope that other projects continue to move forward," he added.

The construction of the Isa Villas is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

Flags lowered to half-staff


Gov. Ralph DLG Torres directed that all CNMI and federal flags in the CNMI be flown at half-staff starting Feb. 16 in respect for the victims of the shooting tragedy in Parkland, Florida.

President Donald J. Trump had ordered that the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff as a mark of respect for the

victims of the senseless act of violence perpetrated on Feb. 14, 2018, in Parkland, Florida.


The flags are to be flown at half-staff until sunset, Feb. 19, 2018.

Torres signed a similar proclamation last Feb. 16, directing that the CNMI flag be flown at half-staff for the same length of time. (PR)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

CUC-RSQ-18-014

DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT, SURVEYING, CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION, AND OTHER A&E PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR VARIOUS COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION WATER AND WASTEWATER PROJECTS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting Statement of Qualifications from qualified architecture & engineering (A&E) firms for the design of water and wastewater infrastructure including but not limited to water mains, sewer mains (gravity and pressure), lift stations, booster pumping stations, water storage reservoirs, treatment works, upgrade to existing facilities; providing construction management services including but not limited to submittal review, clarification and technical assistance related to contract plans and specification, field engineering due to changes in conditions during construction, construction inspection, electrical inspection, review of partial payment requests, surveying, and other related engineering services on various CUC Water and Wastewater Projects on the Island of Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed projects are funded by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and CUC. All work is subject to EPA & CUC review and pre-approval.

The RSQ package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFSOQ package set. The RSQ package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-service will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective firms must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division to be considered.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the SOQ must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RSQ 18-014, Request for Statement of Qualifications" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on March 12, 2018**. Statements of Qualifications mailed via postal or courier service must be received or postmarked on or before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A&E firm are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the A&E firm due to lack of information or understanding of the Request for Statement of Qualifications requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a SOQ under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible A&E firms who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. A&E firms shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

This Request for Statements of Qualifications does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of statements of qualifications in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC procurement regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable federal regulations.

All responses to this RSQ should take into account any and all taxes, which will become the obligation of the proponent, awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business and Engineering license in compliance with the Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 23, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water/Wastewater Jr. Engineer via email address nicollette.villagomez@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all Statement of Qualifications for any reason and to waive any defects in said RSQ, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All Statement of Qualifications shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-18-010

MAUI 1 & 4 SHAFT WELLS MECHANICAL LIFT REHABILITATION PROJECT, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to design a method to rehabilitate the Maui 1 & 4 mechanical lifts; to rehabilitate the existing mechanical lifts and develop a safety plan for all required work in the shaft and tunnels in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from the above mentioned funding agencies.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be conducted at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan on **February 22, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Immediately after the conference, a Site Visit to the Maui Shaft Wells facility will be conducted. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal.

One (1) original and four (4) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-18-010 Maui 1 & 4 Shaft Wells Mechanical Lift Rehabilitation Project, Saipan, CNMI" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **March 16, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A **Proposal Guarantee** of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A **Payment Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent and a **Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 26, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to CUC Water-Wastewater Engineer, Jake Parker via email address jake.parker@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address Marcela.Tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

America's great shame

The great shame of modern America continues as another ghastly school shooting, this time in Florida, points out the inexcusable failure of politicians to impose more reasonable gun controls.

Must we wait for children to be slaughtered in every political district across the country for members of Congress and legislatures to grow spines? We might not have to wait long, at the current pace.

Who will defend our right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness?

That right is diminished because Congress and legislatures are allowing the proliferation of military-style assault weapons that are designed to kill multiple people quickly and are being used to do so on a regular basis.

That right was denied to the children and families in Columbine, Newtown, Mukilteo and now Parkland, Florida, where at least 17 students and teachers were killed at a high school on Wednesday. It might have been denied to students at an Everett high school if it weren't for a grandmother who discovered a plan and a military-style weapon among her 18-year-old grandson's belongings Tuesday and called police.

That right should trump strained interpretations of the Second Amendment, which authorized a well-regulated militia, not flooding the country with millions of barely regulated weapons of mass human destruction.

No wonder Russia thinks it can bamboozle American voters. Years of dithering over gun control and brainwashing by the gun lobby has shown the world how easily Americans lose their bearings when bombarded with slogans and propaganda.

The gun lobby's greedy manipulation of emotions and the political process led to the absurd situation we're in today. A minority of the population wanting easy access to a particular class of dangerous weapons is prevailing over a nation begging its government to address the horrific mass shootings of children.

Additional gun restrictions will not end murder or shootings. There will always be aberrant behavior. But the frequency and severity of shootings will decrease if the country imposes more reasonable limits on firearms.

That should include a ban on semi-automatic, customizable, military-style assault weapons such as the AR-15 type used in Parkland and other recent mass shootings.

There should also be a national ban on high-capacity magazines that increase the lethality of these attacks, and reduce opportunities to escape or intervene when the shooter reloads.

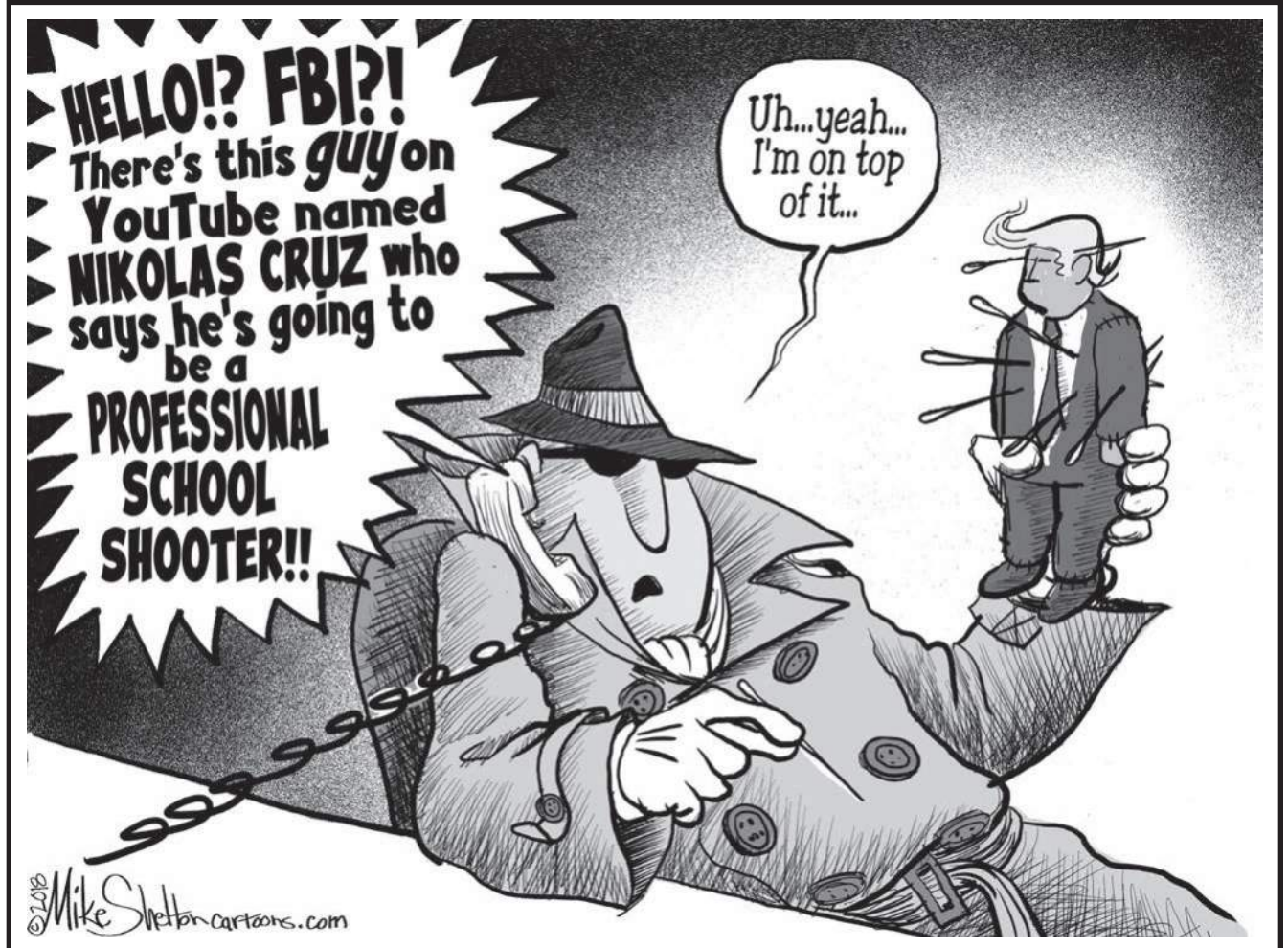
Concerns of law-abiding gun owners must be taken into account. Gun ownership is a right and deeply held belief for some. Their views deserve respect. But this right was never absolute. Gun sales are regulated and regulations must evolve as conditions warrant.

Several promising steps were introduced in the Washington Legislature this year. But struggles to pass them show this is a bipartisan failure of leadership. The cynical take is that too many representatives are more concerned about winning their next election than addressing an immediate public-health and safety crisis.

Democrats control the Legislature, but measures addressing assault weapons or high-capacity magazines stalled.

A bump-stock ban passed the Senate. Now it's up to the

See SHAME on Next Page



If nationalism is on the rise, where's the outrage over Russia?

I'm confused.

These days, "nationalism" is all the rage on the right. I put it in quotes because there are a lot of different ideas of what nationalism means. Some of it is just rah-rah "USA No. 1" sloganeering. For others, nationalism is basically code for white identity politics.

And for the so-called "alt-right," it's not even code.

"The ideal of a white ethno-state—and it is an ideal—is something that I think we should think about in the sense of what could come after America," Richard Spencer, a leading alt-righter, has said.

Note the phrase "after America." For that crowd, American patriotism—love for our creeds of liberty and devotion to the Constitution—is already a dead letter.

Among intellectual conservatives there is a much more elevated and defensible call for a renewed sense of national identity, one that is racially inclusive and rooted in American history and patriotism.

For instance, my National Review colleagues Rich Lowry and Ramesh Ponnuru argued in a widely discussed essay last year that "Nationalism can be a healthy and constructive force. Since nationalistic sentiments also have wide appeal and durability, it would be wiser to cultivate that kind of nationalism than to attempt to move beyond it."

That strikes me as entirely reasonable. While I'm skeptical about the utility of relying on nationalism as an organizing political idea, I have always believed that a little nationalism is necessary for a country to bind itself together and for citizens to feel that their nation is worth defending. Sustaining the long twilight struggle against the Soviet Union would have been impossible without some amount of nationalist commitment (which is not to say that this sentiment couldn't boil over into hysteria from time to time).

Moreover, without a little nationalist sentiment, it's difficult to cultivate patriotism or assimilate immigrants into American culture.

While many on the left are eager to blur the distinctions between the benign nationalism of Lowry et al. with the atavistic identity politics of Spencer & Co., there is actually very little overlap between the two camps, except in two aspects. As an analytical matter, the nationalists insist that nationalism is the wave of the future, transforming politics around the globe. And they may be right.

Second, and not unrelatedly, nationalists of all stripes have pinned some of their hopes on the idea that Donald Trump could serve as a useful champion for their particular kind of national-

By **JONAH GOLDBERG**

Tribune News Service

Jonah Goldberg is an editor-at-large of National Review Online and a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. You can write to him in care of this newspaper or by email at JonahsColumn@aol.com.



ism. Indeed, they are often quick to say that their real passion is for the nationalist cause and not the flawed vessel that is Trump.

So here's what I'm confused about. It seems to me that virtually every understanding of nationalism is rooted in the idea that the nation should be jealously defended from foreign interference, aggression and insult. Even purely symbolic disrespect should quicken the blood of every true nationalist.

In ancient Greece, the Trojan War was waged over a romantic squabble. Modern Greece and the Balkan nation of Macedonia have nearly come to blows in recent years because the Greeks believe the name "Macedonia" is their historic property. Every learned American patriot knows that the Barbary Wars were fought on the nationalistic battle cry, "Millions for defense, but not one cent for tribute."

Meanwhile, it is now an accepted fact that the Russian government attempted to meddle in our elections and is planning on doing so again in 2018 and beyond. Members of the Trump administration, with the notable exception of the president himself, are unequivocally blunt about this. But where is the outrage from the nationalist caucus?

To be fair, National Review has issued stern editorials. But most of the rah-rah nationalists on cable, talk radio and social media have been remarkably blase about it, more interested in Hillary Clinton's misdeeds than those of a contemptuous foreign power. For some of the alt-right, the silence is understandable; many of them are simply fanboys (or clients) of Vladimir Putin.

But at least part of this outrage lacuna must be attributable to the distorting effects of partisanship. The Russians didn't win the 2016 election for Trump, but the whole topic remains politically charged for him, and his refusal to squarely address this issue sends a powerful signal to his own party. So it gets downgraded to a mere technical challenge for the Deep State to handle. And maybe that's the right course.

But it does pose an interesting question: How powerful can nationalism be if it cannot overpower partisan loyalty?

Another shooting: How can I tell my son he'll be OK at school?

By ALISHA BERGER GORDER
THE HARTFORD COURANT

As we waited for the school bus on a recent morning, my 9-year-old son asked me what he should do if a shooter walks into his elementary school and starts killing people.

It was not a question I was expecting. Usually, we talk about things like what he has for snack or whether Darth Vader or Yoda is smarter. So, I wasn't ready to answer.

I asked him what he thought he was supposed to do. He said he should, "listen to the teacher."

I told him that was a good idea. He has a beautiful, smart and caring teacher. She'd know best. He seemed satisfied. But, I wasn't. My heart was racing because my son, my sweet, compassionate and concerned son, was scared of going to school. He didn't feel safe.

And, I as his mother, the trusty solver of his problems, the bandager of all of his boo-boos (physical, mental, emotional) couldn't guarantee that everything would be OK.

I thought the worst had passed. It hadn't. He had a second question.

"So, what happens if I'm in the hallway when the shooter comes?"

He meant, what if there was no teacher there to tell him what to do.

I told him to think about where he could go to be safe. Run there. And stay put until he saw someone he trusts.

He nodded grimly. I think he believed he might not see me at the end of the school day. That this conversation might be our very last.

He said he was cold and leaned on me. That's pretty rare. At the bus stop he tends to stand apart from me; just in case the bus comes around the corner and the other kids see us having a mom-son moment. I get that. But, he was all about the hugs.

He needed courage. I told him that school shootings are rare, so the chance of one happening in his school is pretty slim. But, I admitted, school shootings do happen.

He nodded. Then, he asked the saddest question of all.

"Why would someone want to kill me?"

I told him that there are sick people in the world, and that trying to understand a person who would harm a stranger is impossible. I told him that people who do these sorts of things aren't healthy. And that most people would help a stranger and never hurt one.

I told him what Mr. Rogers said, so smartly—whenever there's a terrible thing, look for the helpers. Because, there are always helpers.

Right? Most people are good. They see suffering and they want to stop it. We cook for the hungry, run holiday gift drives for those down on their luck and help our neighbors in need. We are a caring, loving species.

The shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., that killed 17 people on Wednesday was reportedly the 18th school shooting in the U.S. since New Year's Day. It's hard to believe. Of course, I didn't tell my son how many there have been. How does a mother explain that the all-knowing adults around him haven't been able to fix this? That shootings are a fact of life because nothing has

happened to make them stop.

As parents we try to make the world feel secure for our kids. We know grownup life is turbulent and unpredictable and scary. We want our kids to be calm and at peace so they can focus on the difficult task of growing up. But, reality intrudes on us all.

I wish we had the collective will to alter this reality.

The bus came and my little guy squeezed me for all he was worth.

"Bye, mom," he said.

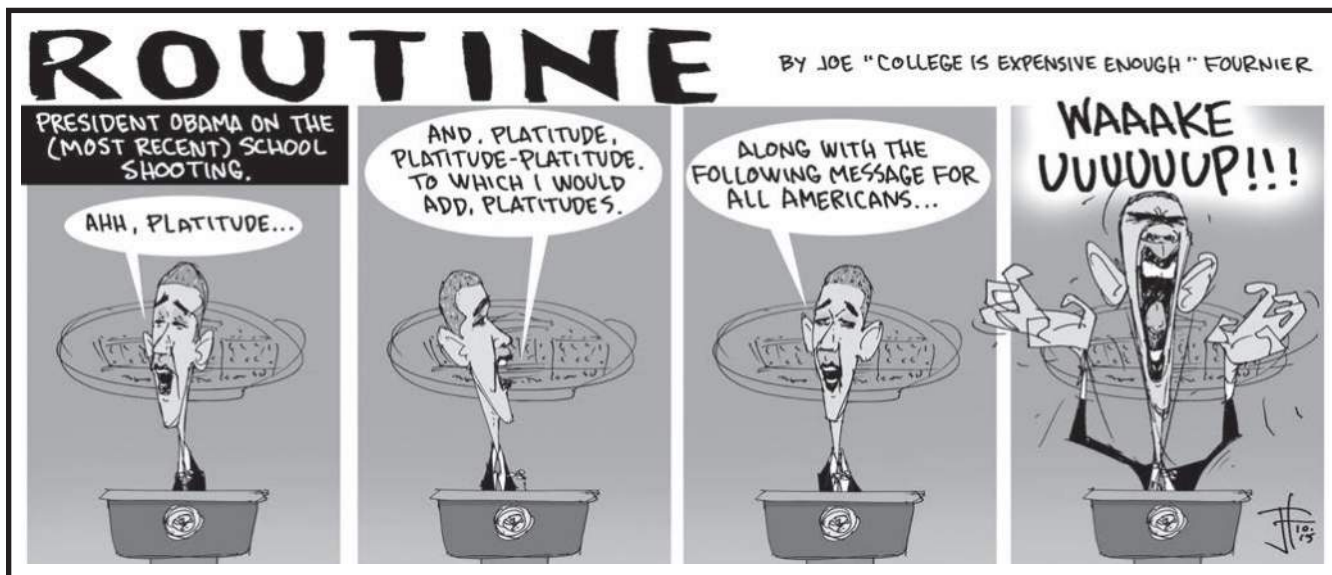
"I love you," I said. "See you at the end of the day."

He got on the bus and I watched him walk to a seat and sit down. He immediately looked out the window at me. He usually ignores me completely and plays with his friends.

The bus door closed and the bus drove away.

My guy's face didn't move. It was pressed against the glass and he kept staring at me. I waved. He continued to stare at me until his bus turned the corner and disappeared.

Alisha Berger Gorder is a member of The Courant's Voices board. She lives in Easton, Ct.



A high school massacre and guns: A requiem for sanity

Seventeen dead in a high school. South Florida.

A former student, 19. Armed to the teeth. A semi-automatic AR-15 rifle. Made to kill.

Police officers running to the school, machine guns drawn. A mother texting her son to turn off his phone's ringer so the killer with the rifle won't hear it and find him.

A slaughter.

Seventeen dead. At a high school. In America.

It has happened before, it happened Wednesday and it will happen again.

Why? Because nothing. We do nothing.

School shooting. Nothing.

School shooting. Nothing.

School shooting. Nothing.

Thoughts and prayers. Don't talk about guns. Don't politicize deaths.

Too soon, too soon, too soon.

Thoughts and prayers and thoughts and prayers and thoughts and prayers.

A tweet from the president. Nothing more. It gets a tweet. No spoken words.

Seventeen dead.

Don't talk about guns.

It's mental health. Mental health, right? Got to fix mental health. Never do, but keep saying it.

Seventeen dead Wednesday. What's changed since the last one? Nothing. When was the last one? Can't remember. It's a blur.

Mass shootings in America—in schools, at concerts, in movie theaters—are a blur.

Read that again: Mass shootings in America are a blur. A blur.

What do we do?

Don't talk about guns. Evil can't be stopped. Guns aren't to

blame. Weapons of mass killing have nothing to do with mass killings. Nope.

Listen to the National Rifle Association. The world is scary. You need guns. More. More. More.

Listen to the politicians who get the money from the NRA which gets the money from the people who make the guns and the bullets and the bulletproof vests we ought to send kids to school wearing so they don't die when bullets fly from a gun in the hands of a maniac who fell through the cracks and could only have been caught, could only have been stopped, if we had better mental health care or if we had teachers carrying guns or no more gun-free zones or something, anything, that isn't tougher gun laws.

What do we do?

Cry. Shout. Scream.

Vote?

Nah. Just arm people. Arm 'em all.

Arm the teachers. Arm the janitors. Arm the principal, the front-office manager, the librarian.

Arm your kid. Arm the crossing guard. Arm the bus drivers.

Arm store clerks and salespeople and gas station attendants. Arm mall cops. Arm doctors and nurses and dentists and surgeons. Arm priests, arm nuns and monks and rabbis and imams.

Arm your neighbor. Let your neighbor arm you.

Arm your friends, arm your lovers, arm your aunts, arm your mother, arm your dad and brothers and uncles and aunts, arm your sons and daughters, arm your cousins and in-laws and Facebook friends and every damn person you've ever met and keep them armed at all times, for they are the good guys with guns who will fend off the bad guys with guns, and don't you talk for a minute—not a minute—about gun laws because it's too soon and you're politicizing a tragedy and no, no, no, no, no, no, no you mustn't infringe on any American's freedom to own

By REX HUPPKE

Chicago Tribune

Rex Huppke is a Chicago Tribune columnist. Readers may send him email at rhuppke@tribpub.com.



and bear and fire and fetishize firearms even if it keeps costing life after life after life in places where young human beings should feel safe.

Arm 'em all. That's the answer. That's what the NRA wants.

Seventeen dead in a high school. Massacred. Nothing we could've done, right? Mental health, right?

Now back to the blur. On to the next time. On to nothing.

Tougher gun laws wouldn't have stopped those schoolchildren in Florida from dying, right?

So what allowed it?

What do we tell those parents? Grieving. Heartbroken. Ruined.

This is what I'll tell them. This is what I'll tell the NRA. This is what I'll tell politicians who line their pockets with blood money and sit on their hands.

This is what I'll say: I don't know exactly what would've stopped children from being murdered at a South Florida high school. But I know for certain that what allowed it to happen was America doing nothing. America doing what it always does in the wake of slaughters.

Nothing. Nothing. Nothing.

Nothing gets us 17 dead on the ground in a high school.

Nothing is insanity.

Nothing has to stop.

SHAME

From Page 12

House to ban the devices that can be used on semi-automatic guns to emulate the performance of automatic weapons, as demonstrated in the Las Vegas massacre.

Especially disappointing is the failure of Senate Bill 5444,

sponsored by Sen. David Frock at the request of Attorney General Bob Ferguson. It defines assault weapons and would require buyers of them and high-capacity magazines to undergo background checks comparable to those on handgun buyers. That includes a local law-enforcement check to see if buyers are subject to social-services or domestic-violence court orders.

The measure never reached the Senate floor before the cutoff date. Frock said it didn't have enough votes to pass anyway.






"You want to make progress but there are limits to what the system will bear at the moment," he said. "Right now we just don't have the votes."

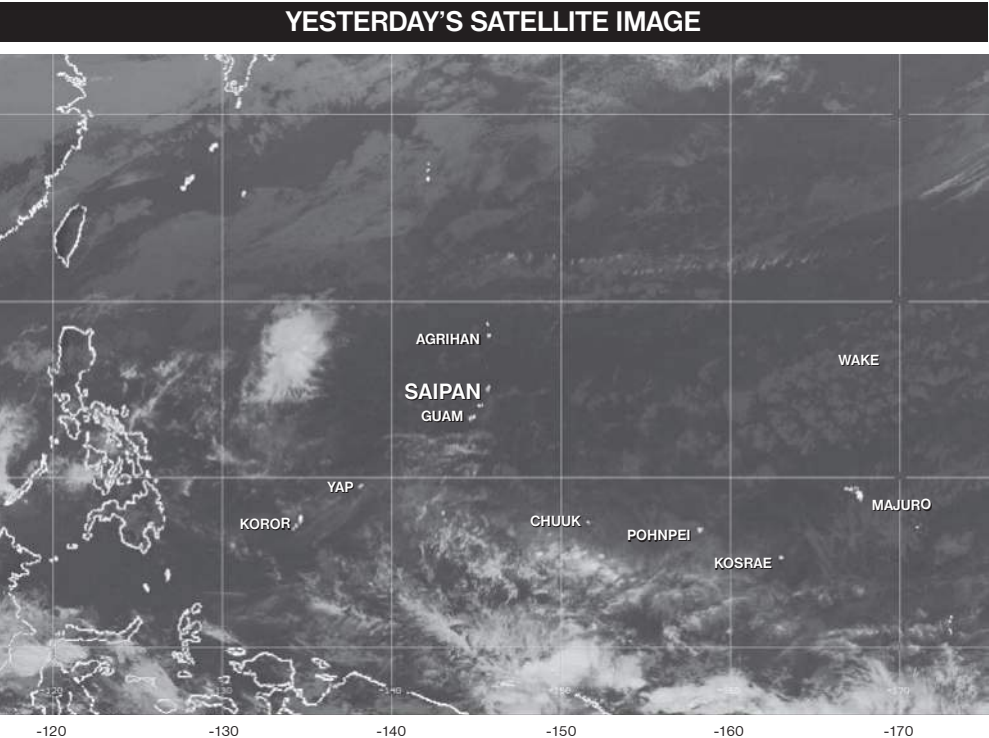
Perhaps the Parkland school massacre will help motivate lawmakers to approve the bump-stock ban.

Really, that's the least they can do to address the shame and horror of America's mass-shooting crisis.

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The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN				
TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
 Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	 Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	 Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	 Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	 Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.
▲ 89° ▼ 76°	▲ 89° ▼ 77°	▲ 89° ▼ 78°	▲ 89° ▼ 77°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°



PICTURE TIME: 7:11 AM, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line remnant can be found over the local area this morning and will cause mostly cloudy skies today. Deep layer moisture will be lacking so showers will be isolated at best. No large scale weather systems are expected to directly impact the Marianas and as a result only partly cloudy skies and isolated showers are expected through the coming week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA ▲ ▼ °F		
Guam and Rota	Showers	86° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	84° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	84° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE ▲ ▼ °F		
Auckland	Showers	73° / 64°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	45° / 23°
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	73° / 66°
Honolulu	Showers	80° / 69°
London	Cloudy	50° / 41°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	62° / 44°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	91° / 75°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	90° / 66°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	80° / 74°
New York	Showers	48° / 44°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	52° / 36°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	50° / 37°
Busan	Sunny	52° / 30°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	57° / 43°
Salem	Cloudy	79° / 60°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	52° / 38°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	43° / 23°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	52° / 36°
Washington, DC	Showers	51° / 49°



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TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
3:52 AM	LOW TIDE	0.08
10:15 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.93
4:28 PM	LOW TIDE	0.68
9:53 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.77

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:39 AM	6:21 PM
Tuesday	6:39 AM	6:22 PM
Wednesday	6:38 AM	6:22 PM
Thursday	6:38 AM	6:22 PM
Friday	6:37 AM	6:23 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	8:51 am	9:12 pm	-
Tuesday	9:32 am	10:04 pm	-
Wednesday	10:15 am	10:58 pm	-
Thursday	11:00 am	11:54 pm	-
Friday	11:48 am	-	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017			
DEPARTURES		ARRIVALS	
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)		GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN	
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)		GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)	
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)		ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN	
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)		NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN	
DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily
DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)		BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN	
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)		SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN	
TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)		SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN	
3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (GHG)		HANGZHOU (GHG)-SAIPAN	
JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)		GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN	
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)		BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN	
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)		MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN	
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)		HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN	
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
U043	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
U042	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
U042	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.			
SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

StayWell moves to new Guam building, rebrands

HAGÁTÑA, Guam—After 30 years of providing insurance coverage in Guam, StayWell Insurance is embarking upon a major rebranding effort that includes a new company headquarters, brand logo, and slogan, and a corporate social responsibility platform.

StayWell will move from its current building in Hagåtña to a new building in Maite this month.

Modern and streamlined, the new two-story, 17,900-square-foot building incorporates elements of *feng shui* and classical motifs and tropical wood veneers to signify

culture, health, and longevity. The interior layout is woven around a central, curved stairway, which opens up onto a second floor main foyer space featuring a sitting Buddha statue in front of a slate wall.

“The building represents StayWell’s long-term investment in Guam’s future,” said Chen Mack, the company’s president and CEO.

The StayWell brand

StayWell Insurance’s mission is to help beyond expectations: That’s one of the key messages StayWell wants to get across with its rebranding initiative,

centered on a new logo.

“The desire to rebrand was to emphasize the strength of the StayWell service” said Mack. StayWell fulfills its insurance promise by being the best at what it does and helping beyond expectations. The graphic elements of StayWell’s rebranded logo icon integrate circular elements that evoke inclusivity, belonging, and connection. These connective elements include the ‘S’ and ‘I’ within the logo, and hints at the number 8.

Today, Feb. 19, StayWell will host a ribbon-cutting

event from 10am to 12pm in Maite, Guam. The company’s new logo and slogan will also be revealed at during the event.

Art auction

On behalf of the StayWell Guam Diabetes Foundation, StayWell Insurance is hosting an art auction. It will feature locally grown artists including Frank Perez, Michelle Pier, and Gino Datuin. Portion of the proceeds from the sale will be distributed to StayWell Guam Diabetes Foundation. The art auction will be announced during the company’s Ribbon-cutting celebra-

tion today, Feb. 19, 2018.

Gala

On Saturday, March 17, 2018, the StayWell Guam Diabetes Foundation will have its first gala at Dusit Thani Resort Guam. The event will feature award-winning singer and actress Vanessa Williams, with proceeds going toward the foundation. The gala is planned to become an annual event.

“I humbly ask the community of Guam to join us, enjoy a performance by Vanessa Williams, and help us support the StayWell Guam Diabetes Foundation” said Mack.

Visit staywellguamdiabetesfoundation.org for more information.

tesfoundation.org for more information.

About

StayWell Insurance, headquartered in Maite, Guam, is an insurance company with branches in Guam, the Philippines, and Saipan. The company’s mission to help beyond expectations informs its business decisions and growth strategy. It is intended to create value for customers, build relationships with customers and attract the best employees in the industry. Founded in 1986, StayWell has a 90-strong team aiming to be the best at what they do. **(PR)**

Kupu launches Pacific Fellowship program

HONOLULU—Kupu, Hawaii’s leading conservation and youth education organization, will be launching the Pacific Resiliency Fellows program in April 2018. The new fellowship program will target early- to mid-career conservation and sustainability professionals across the Pacific region, and will provide mentorship, networking, field-based learning, professional development training and opportunities.

“We are looking forward to supporting the growth of a culture of conservation and sustainability through the Pacific Resiliency Fellows program,” said John Leong, Kupu CEO. “By engaging, empowering and connecting the next generation of community leaders, we can better protect our environment and enable those who are building more sustainable and resilient communities in Hawaii and across the Pacific.”

The nine-month PRF program will take place from April through December 2018, with two 10-day trainings and meetings in Hawaii in July and December. The program will also include ongoing online curriculum and mentorship that will address sustainability and natural resource management challenges and solutions, identify individual community and organizational needs, and develop leadership style and skills. Fellows will also receive strategic communication training, tailored mentorship, and guidance in developing individualized action plans to support their organizations’ work in their communities.

“The purpose of this program is to build capacity within tomorrow’s leaders,” added Leong. “We are creating a space where the Pacific Resiliency Fellows can better connect and learn from each other, and from seasoned professionals, community leaders and *kupuna* in Hawaii, to help them resolve various resiliency issues within their own communities.”

Kupu will select up to 14 fel-

lows from Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, and Rapa Nui for the inaugural class of Pacific Resiliency Fellows.

Applicants may be in the early to middle stages of their careers in environmental stewardship, conservation or sustainability. They must showcase aptitude and experience in their respective fields, leadership potential and a desire and commitment to make positive changes in their community and the world.

Tuition for the program is \$2,500 to cover travel and program costs. Scholarships may be available if the applicant or her/his organization is unable to cover tuition costs.

Applications are available online at <https://kupuahawaii.tfaforms.net/137>. The deadline to apply is March 1, 2018. Selected Pacific Resiliency Fellows will be notified by March 20, 2018.

The Pacific Resiliency Fellows program is a legacy initiative of the 2016 International Union for Conservation of Nature World Conservation Congress. Program sponsors include Hau’oli Mau Loa Foundation, Harold K.L. Castle Foundation and the U.S. Forest Service.

Kupu is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Honolulu, Hawaii. *Kupu* in Hawaiian means “to sprout, grow, germinate, or increase.” Kupu’s mission is to bring life back to the people, land, and ocean while restoring the larger community for a better tomorrow. Founded in 2007, Kupu provides service-learning programs in industries like conservation, renewable energy, agriculture, and sustainability. The organization is currently working with over 150 partner sites that are comprised of federal, state, and NGO entities throughout the main Hawaiian Islands, American Samoa, California, Palmyra Atoll, Johnston Atoll, and Midway Atoll.

For more information, visit www.kupuhawaii.org. **(PR)**



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
Early Intervention Program



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT

Pursuant to Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2004, & GEPA, the Public School System Early Intervention Program is required to provide at least 60 days prior to submission of grant applications for funds, a 60 day circulation notice with an opportunity for public comment on the application for at least 30 days during that period and provide an opportunity for the general public, including individuals with disabilities and parents of infants, toddlers and youth with disabilities, to provide comments.

DUE TO THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS ON MAY 4, 2018


60-Day Public Circulation Period: February 19, 2018 to April 19, 2018
30-Day Public Comment Period: February 26, 2018 to March 27, 2018

Hard copies of the Grant Applications are available from Monday – Friday, 8:00am-4:00pm at the following locations:


Children’s Developmental Assistance Center (CDAC) in Garapan (670) 664-4841. You may also access the Grant Application on the PSS Website: <https://www.cnmipss.org/student-support-services/>

Comments may be submitted by fax to (670) 664-4846, hand delivered to the Children’s Developmental Assistance Center located in Garapan or phone your comments into Children’s Developmental Assistance Center: (670) 664-4841.

For more information, please contact Robin L. Palacios, Director, Early Intervention Program at (670) 664-4841.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>



PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
Koblerville Gymnasium Operation

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is soliciting for proposals from qualified and established organizations and agencies to operate the Koblerville gymnasium.

The proposal packets are available at the NMHC Central Office Saipan located in Garapan during regular business hours from Monday thru Friday except CNMI Holidays beginning February 9, 2018.

A mandatory pre-proposal meeting will be held on February 23, 2018 at 10 a.m. at the NMHC Central Office Conference Room. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing or email to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, faxed to (670)234-9021, or email to jjmuna@nmhc.gov.mp.

The proposal would be evaluated based on the following criteria:


1. Qualification and Experience: 30%
2. Organization and Capacity: 30%
3. Financial Capacity: 20%
4. Response to RFP: 20%

Proposers must seal and mark their proposals “NMHC Koblerville Gymnasium”. Proposers must submit one (1) original and two (2) copies of sealed proposal and submitted to the NMHC Corporate Director, Garapan, no later than 10:00 a.m. on March 12, 2018.


The NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals become the property of the Government.

For more information, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Planner at (670) 234-7689/6866 during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Special Board Meeting is scheduled on **Tuesday, February 20, 2018 – 3:00 p.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.** The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**
- IV. OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. Fiscal Year 2016 Audit Report
- V. NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Submission
- VI. LEGAL COUNSEL’S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT**
- VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- VIII. OTHER MATTERS**
- IX. ADJOURNMENT**

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/
AUBRY S. HOCOG
Chairwoman of the Board

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Amendment to the Official Saipan Zoning Map (Rezoning) for Marianas General Clinic dba Marianas Specialty Referral Hospital/Pacific Fertility Institute

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking your comments on the following proposed amendment (rezoning) to the Official Saipan Zoning Map. Marianas General Clinic dba Marianas Specialty Referral Hospital/Pacific Fertility Institute is requesting to rezone Lots # EA 216-2-1, EA 216-3, EA 833-12, EA 833-13, EA 833-14-1, EA 833-14-R-1, & EA 833-20 in As Perdido (Mango Resort properties), from “Village Commercial” to “Mixed Commercial” zoning district.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: March 21, 2018
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3:00 pm, March 20, 2018. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ *Diego C. Blanco, Chairman*

Lunar New Year Party





Pika Festival draws int'l guests

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

TACHOGNA BEACH, Tinian—The 14th Annual Pika Festival drew not just island residents but also tourists from Saipan, Rota, Guam, and far-flung areas like Cali-

fornia and Alaska.

The Pika Festival has always garnered the participation of CNMI residents, but this year, the festival was graced by the participation of Corona Councilman Randy Fox of California.

According to Fox, this

was the first year he was able to visit the island and to join the festival and he was amazed by the island's beauty and the kindness of the island's residents.

The festival also brought in Agat representatives. During the festival's opening cere-

mony, Agat Mayor Kevin Susuico and Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas signed a sisterhood agreement.

Another highlight was the Pikalicious Burger eating competition. The enormous burgers were laced with a couple of Tinian hot peppers,



Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas, third from the left, and Agat Mayor Kevin Susuico, second from the right, sign the sisterhood agreement during the 14th Annual Pika Festival last Saturday on Tachogna Beach.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



Dignitaries at the 14th Annual Pika Festival last Saturday on Tachogna Beach stand for the posting of the colors by the Tinian High School drill team.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



The Tinian High School drill team posted the colors during the 14th Annual Pika Festival last Saturday on Tachogna Beach, Tinian.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



The winners of the Pika 65K race pose for a photo during the 14th Annual Pika Festival last Saturday on Tachogna Beach, Tinian.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



Tinian High School volunteers serve the Pikalicious burger to the Pikalicious Burger eating competitors during the 14th Annual Pika Festival last Saturday on Tachogna Beach, Tinian.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



The Pikalicious Burger eating competition competitors race to finish the enormous pika-laced burgers during the 14th Annual Pika Festival last Saturday on Tachogna Beach, Tinian.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



Most of the booths during the 14th Annual Pika Festival last Saturday and Sunday on Tachogna Beach were adorned with enormous hot peppers in honor of the island's *donne sali*.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

making it nearly impossible to consume the entire burger, but Deborja Dela Cruz accomplished it. The eating contest had 12 competitors, the biggest batch of competitors in the festival's history.

Throughout the two-day festival, entertainers from Saipan and Tinian provided live entertainment.

For the entirety of the festival, everyone was encouraged to join the many activities. There a hot pepper/soba eating contest, a beach volleyball competition, a "Kadun Pika" cooking contest, a canoe race,

an arm wrestling competition, an *umang* race, a tug-of-war, a sack race, and more.

According to San Nicolas, this year's Pika Festival is special because it celebrates the memory of the festival's originator, Ellen Fleming Ikehara.

Lailani Ikehara, Ikehara's daughter, said it was beautiful to see that the festival only continues to grow and continues to unite people of different ethnic backgrounds. Ikehara said it was what her mother always wanted and what she foresaw when she brought the idea of the Pika Festival to life.



The youth of Tinian compete in the annual volleyball competition during the 14th Annual Pika Festival last Saturday on Tachogna Beach.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas, far right, poses for a photo with Lailani Ikehara, middle, during the 14th Annual Pika Festival last Saturday on Tachogna Beach on Tinian. Ikehara is the daughter of the late Ellen Fleming Ikehara, the originator of the Tinian Pika Festival.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



The Pikalicious Burger eating competition champion Deborja Dela Cruz, far right, poses with Tinian Department of Commerce director Susan Cruz, middle, and MVA field operations supervisor Vida Borja during the 14th Annual Pika Festival last Saturday on Tachogna Beach.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Health & Fitness

Losing weight is, for most people, the easy part. The bigger challenge is trying to keep it off for more than a year.

New research helps explain why people in this second stage are so much more prone to failure.

In a nutshell, people who have shed a significant chunk of their weight are hungrier and have a stronger desire to eat for at least a year after transitioning from weight loss to weight-loss maintenance. And even when their hormones send loud satiety signals to the brain after a meal, they still don't feel full.

The new study, published Thursday in the American Journal of Physiology-Endocrinology and Metabolism, falls in line with a growing field of research that explores the body's tenacious and multi-pronged response to weight loss.

In a bid to ensure that lost weight is regained, the human body has been found to reset its thermostat to burn fuel more efficiently, to economize in calorie-burning movements and to rev up the impulse to find and eat food.

Researchers believe these responses evolved to protect humans against wasting away during times of famine. But in societies where calorific foods are never in short supply, these adaptations have worked to the detriment of dieters.

Moreover, in people who have become obese, there's growing suspicion that these responses become harder to override. In recent years, researchers have found evidence that obesity makes the brain more "deaf" to some of the gut's satiety signals, and more keenly attuned to signals of hunger.

The new research offers some validation for that surmise.

To study the effects of weight loss in 35 severely obese subjects, Norwegian researchers helped them lose close to a tenth of their weight. They provided dietary advice, exercise coaching and psychotherapy during several three-week stays at a wooded retreat in eastern Norway. All the subjects had a body-mass index greater than 42 (a BMI over 30 is considered obese) at the outset of the study.



A bigger challenge than losing weight is keeping it off for more than a year.

DREAMSTIME

had lost an average of 3.5 percent of their body weight. Their levels of appetite-boosting hormones had risen rapidly—probably a response to their getting roughly 3½ hours of exercise per day while at the retreat.

But they did not report increased hunger or desire to eat. And with rising levels of satiety hormones, they were feeling more full in the wake of eating a meal.

As they met their weight-loss goals, however, things changed.

At the end of a year of dieting and exercise, the study's participants had lost about 7.4 percent of their weight and had improved their fitness considerably. But they reported to researchers a significant increase in their hunger and desire to eat. And the sensations of fullness they reported after meals had plummeted.

Two years after enrolling in the study—and a year into their weight-maintenance programs—the subjects had, on average, kept the weight from coming back. But they continued to report levels of hunger and desire to eat that were just as high or higher than at the end of Year One. And they reported feeling no more full after a meal.

At both time points, their hormone levels continued to show increases in appetite-stimulating compounds, as well as those that would signal fullness. Though they lost the weight and—with the study's unusual level of support—managed to keep it off, they were hearing the loud cries of their hunger-boosting hormones. The fullness ones, not so much.

The good news, according to the researchers: A sustained and supportive program of dietary restriction and physical activity does induce weight loss and can help very obese patients keep the weight off.

The bad news: "Patients with severe obesity who have lost significant amounts of weight ... will have to deal with increased hunger in the long-term."

If these patients are to beat the odds and sustain their weight loss, professionals working with them will have to find ways to help them cope with that, they added.

WHY DIETS BACKFIRE:

A year or more after weight loss, the desire to eat grows stronger

BY MELISSA HEALY
LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

At one year, when subjects had lost an average of close to 24 pounds, they returned to the retreat to map out maintenance plans.

Every six months from enrollment to two years out, researchers checked in to conduct a series of tests. Before

and for three hours after meals, they gauged subjects' subjective feelings of hunger, fullness and desire to eat, and asked how much food they planned to consume. And they measured circulating levels of five separate hormones that regulate appetite to see how they

responded to the prospect of a meal or a meal just eaten.

What they found was the body's reaction to weight loss shifted over time.

In the short run—four weeks after their exercise-and-weight-loss regimens got underway—the subjects

This advertorial is sponsored by
Tan Siu Lin Foundation



Personal Trainer

Strength training for novices

This eight-part routine on standard gym equipment is recommended for people who have had little or no strength training experience.

1 Lying leg press



2 Leg extension



3 Lying leg curl



4 Incline chest press



5 Shoulder press

Ask the gym trainer for advice on good technique



6 Arm curl with bar



7 Seated row



8 Tricep pushdown

Do 2 to 3 days a week with at least 48 hours between workouts; use weight you can lift 8 to 12 times



NATIONAL CAREGIVERS DAY

Imperial Pacific's CSR, Office on Aging give thanks

Imperial Pacific International's Corporate Social Responsibility team and the CNMI Office on Aging and National Family Caregiver Support Program expressed appreciation to business and community partners for the successful National Caregivers Day Program last Friday.

Both IPI-CSR and Office on Aging have partnered this year for this unique program that aims to give back to caregivers.

There is a total of 112 individuals being served by the Office on Aging and National Family Caregiver Support Program. This is led by Linda Torres.

Imperial Pacific's CSR team, led by senior director Geri Dela Cruz, continues to give back to the community and, has collaborated with Office on Aging and National Family Caregiver Support



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Imperial Pacific International's Corporate Social Responsibility team led by senior director Geri Dela Cruz, third left, and the CNMI Office on Aging and National Family Caregiver Support Program led by Linda C. Torres, fourth right, show the prices donated by community partners during last Friday's successful National Caregivers Day.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Healing Stone is also credited for the successful celebration.



Supporter and donor Island Touch by Philip with IPI-CSR's Chandra Cooper.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



A New Paradise Florist representative displays his donation to the event.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Royal Thai Massage stepped up to support the celebration.

Former plain Jane becomes obsessed with her looks

DEAR ABBY: When I was in my teens, and even into my 20s and 30s, I was a Plain Jane. I had little self-confidence. But strangely, I'm one of those people who has gotten better looking as I've aged. Now in my 50s, I am better looking than many women my age or even younger. Men definitely notice me, and I love it.

My problem is, I'm now obsessed with my appearance. I constantly worry that I'll lose my looks. I have even considered cosmetic surgery. I don't want to be the shallow person I see I'm becoming. What can I do?

LATE BLOOMER

DEAR LATE BLOOMER: There's a saying, "You can fool Mother Nature, but you can't fool Father Time." What it boils down to is, time takes its toll on everyone.

It isn't shallow to have the feelings you are experiencing. But please remember that beauty is more than what's on the surface. Perhaps it's time to start concentrating on qualities that accentuate your inner rather than external beauty—kindness, warmth, intelligence, generosity, an appreciation for the value of others—because charm lasts longer than beauty.

This is not to say I don't appreciate the value of cosmetic surgery, which can do wonders for a person's sagging ego. But your appearance should not be the focus of your life because, frankly, it isn't healthy.

DEAR ABBY: I am writing in response to the letter from "Military Service Marker" you printed on Dec. 22. When my uncle, a military veteran, passed away, he was without a military service marker, too. His two kids (my cousins) didn't bother to obtain one, probably out of sheer laziness.

Feeling that it was important, I took the initiative and contacted the VA myself. I obtained the record of his honorable discharge (form DD 214) and his death certificate. I filled out the appropriate paperwork and my uncle got the marker to which he was entitled free of charge. It was delivered directly to the cemetery, and the only cost involved was the installation. It was well worth it, and I have never asked my cousins for a dime. I felt proud about having done something for a deserving vet!

BILL B. IN MISSOURI

DEAR BILL: My thanks to you and to the scores of other readers who wrote to share this information with me. It is important to know that relatives of deceased military veterans can receive these military markers at no cost. Starting the process is as easy as contacting the cemetery, the VA at www.cem.va.gov/hmm/, or a local VFW or American Legion post for assistance.

DEAR ABBY: I need advice on whether to contact an old friend who backstabbed me years ago with my former business partner. I'm trying to get back into the field, and this old "friend"

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



is doing well now. He has a lot of contacts that could help me start my own company. I'm not sure if I should contact him because of what he did to me. Should I?

UNCERTAIN IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR UNCERTAIN: Frankly, I think it would be a waste of time. Leopards don't usually change their spots. If you expect someone who backstabbed you once in business to become generous and helpful, you are dreaming. Find another way to network that he can't "taint," because if he can, he will.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

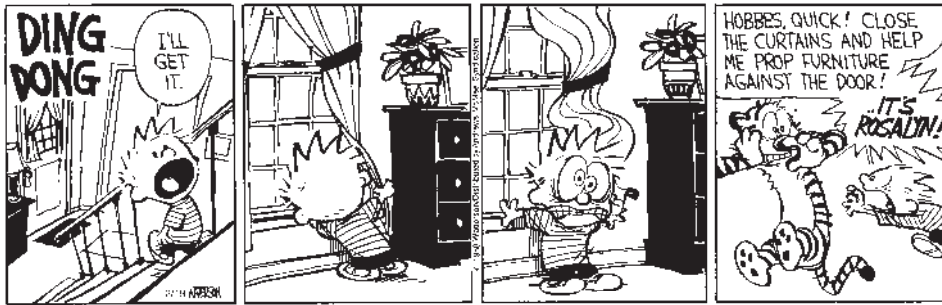
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

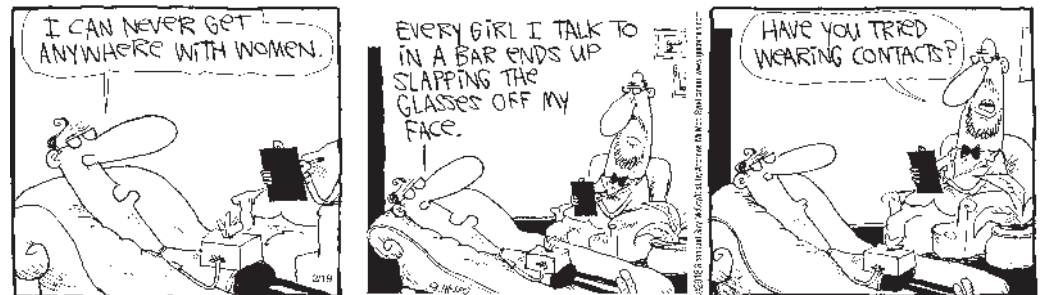


Adam@home

By Bryan Bassett

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS										DOWN									
1 Pantheon member	41 Finger-paints	1 Courage	21 "The A-Team" actor	43 Miss Piggy's pronoun	2 Wheeling's river	23 Entreat	25 Clinton's veep	44 Hockey venue	4 Hertz rival	26 Hertz rival	27 Minus	28 Frozen desserts	46 Mortise partner	5 Beehive State	29 Standard	30 Grimace	31 Pouch	35 May honoree	38 Part of TNT
7 Staffer	11 "Oops!"	13 Ordinal suffix	14 Detail	15 Scramble piece	16 — chi	17 Monopoly payment	18 Not hollow	20 Rope fiber	22 Steal from	24 Thrifty	28 Pen pals?	32 Treasure stash	33 Hen pen	34 Leg, in slang	36 Eye part	37 Blow one's top	39 Come clean		
50 Notoriety	53 World Cup cheer	55 Make over	56 Divisible by two	57 Not 'neath	58 Uttered	59 Long for	60 Identify	61 Golf peg	19 Speck	48 Garfield's pal	49 Protuberance	50 Hardly any	51 Actress Gardner	52 Chaps	54 Work unit				

Last Friday's Answer 02-19

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STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Victoria Justice, 25; Benicio Del Toro, 51; Jeff Daniels, 63; Smokey Robinson, 78.

Happy Birthday: Look for opportunities. Don't waste time arguing when you should be pouring your energy into something concrete. Getting along with others will be half the battle. Missing out on something special because you refuse to compromise will lead to regret. Helping others will be a learning experience that encourages new friendships. Expand your horizons and aim to grow personally, emotionally and spiritually. Your numbers are 6, 13, 22, 25, 33, 36, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't lag behind when you should be working extra hard to get things done. Let your emotions charge you with the energy you require to bring about positive change. Be ready to take on whatever comes your way. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A steady pace and a willingness to learn as you go will lead to gains if you don't let your ego get in the way. Show compassion and understanding and you will succeed. Help will be offered and progress should be made. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Be cautious when dealing with superiors or administrative procedures. Problems will crop up if you don't remain calm and listen carefully to what's expected of you. Be moderate and keep partnerships peaceful to avoid interference. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Keep your distance from anyone who tends to get fired up or act unpredictably. Stick to the

people you find positive to work alongside and you'll be subject to unusual ideas that can help you solve work-related problems. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Interacting with others will allow both you and those you deal with to make your thoughts clear. Communication followed by organized action will bring about important change. Don't neglect your responsibilities to those who depend on you. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take the high road when dealing with personal relationships. Discretion will be necessary if you want to avoid a feud. Family dynamics will be based on truth, responsibility and trust. Question motives and make your position clear. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll be changeable and difficult to pin down. Rethink the past and how indecision has worked against you and consider the best way to handle any dilemmas you face within your important relationships. Step up and make a choice. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Revisit old ideas and you'll come up with a way to implement something you enjoy doing into a new business plan. Be creative and take a shot at actively pursuing your dreams. Networking will lead to new connections and ideas. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may know what's best for you and your family, but don't think that will stop someone from trying to interfere. Be careful not to offer personal information that could be used against you. Keep your plans a secret. *****

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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Difficulty Level ★

2/19

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

5	4	9	7	2	8	3	1	6
8	7	1	3	9	6	4	5	2
2	6	3	1	5	4	7	9	8
7	9	5	8	6	2	1	4	3
1	2	4	5	7	3	6	8	9
6	3	8	9	4	1	5	2	7
9	1	7	2	3	5	8	6	4
3	8	6	4	1	9	2	7	5
4	5	2	6	8	7	9	3	1

Difficulty Level: ★★

2/19

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't speculate when accuracy will be essential. Walk away from unpredictable people and situations. Make your own opportunities instead of waiting for someone else to come through on a promise made long ago. Trust in yourself instead. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't give up hope if someone is negative or criticizes you. Carry on and bring about the changes that will make you happy. For now, it's best to ignore what others do and focus instead on what's most important to you. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't feel pressured to make changes. Do what you want, not what someone else is trying to make you do. Discipline will help you avoid temptation. Keep the peace, but don't let anyone take advantage of you. ***

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, passionate and possessive. You are creative and excitable.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

JIM NABORS (1930-2017)

Solution: 8 letters

F	S	G	R	E	M	O	G	F	R	A	N	K	C	S
M	I	O	A	A	R	O	N	L	L	I	B	A	J	P
A	V	L	A	U	G	H	E	E	L	A	D	M	A	E
R	A	L	E	V	E	T	S	U	R	W	A	R	M	R
I	M	Y	D	P	O	P	O	I	A	N	T	O	E	F
N	U	P	I	Y	S	M	T	L	D	O	H	A	S	O
E	S	A	R	L	E	O	L	Y	N	T	H	D	N	R
Y	I	B	M	E	N	A	G	S	E	S	G	S	I	M
R	C	U	D	E	D	R	S	P	G	R	I	H	G	A
A	M	N	E	E	I	R	P	U	L	U	E	O	H	N
R	A	G	R	F	O	U	O	O	T	H	L	W	T	C
O	N	L	F	B	M	B	V	U	B	T	S	A	C	E
N	A	I	A	O	R	E	H	O	G	D	O	L	L	Y
O	T	N	H	O	R	N	A	L	L	E	N	N	U	R
H	S	G	A	S	S	T	A	T	I	O	N	F	B	I

©2018 Andrew Volkes www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 2/19

Aaron, Allen, Andy, Baritone, Bill, Boat, Bungling, Cadwallader, Cast, Dolly, File, Frank, Fred, Gas Station, Golly, Gomer, Gospel, Griffith, Hero, Home, Honorary, Horn, James, Laugh, Love, Lugs, Marine, Maui, Mavis, Moulin, Muppet, Music Man, Nabors, Nightclub, Parton, Performance, Pop, Pyle, Reno, Ride, Roadshow, Rouge, Ruben, Sleigh, Stan, Steve, Sutton, Thurston

Last Friday's Answer: Oceania
To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: The second time around

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

time emit

© 2018 www.whatzit.com
Just Turned By Andrew Molteni 97d callon

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames
Find today's solution in classified section

KING'S INC. DBA KING'S JEWELRY
JOB VACANCY ANNOUCEMENT

- (1) GOLDSMITH/PRECIOUS METAL WORKER
MUST BE KNOWLEDGEABLE TO FABRICATE, DESIGN, REPAIR, SIZING, SETTING AND MOUNTING GEM STONE, INCLUDING DIAMOND AND METAL CARVING, HAWAIIAN STYLE.
- (1) JEWELRY CASTING TECHNICIAN
TO MAKE MODELS OR MOLD TO CREATE JEWELRY, FABRICATE, REPAIR, SETTING, MOUNTING GEMSTONE, ETC.

Salary: \$7.05 - \$9.00 per Hour – Full Time
Experience: Min. of 5 years in Gold Smith

Interested applicants may send their resume to King's Inc. P.O. Box 5050 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950 or pick up application form from our office at Paseo de Marianas next to Paris Croissant Bakery. Deadline for a submission is no later than 5:00pm on February 23, 2018.

MECHILLE CORPORATION
JOB VACANCY ANNOUCEMENT

(1) ACCOUNTANT
(1) INTERIOR DESIGNER/SALES
(4) INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE,
REPAIR WORKERS AND ALL

Interested applicants may send their resume to mechillecorporation@gmail.com or pick up application form at our Office at Kannat Tabla Dr. Monsignor Rd. across Café Mango Six. Deadline for submission is no later than 5:00pm on February 23, 2018

ROSE MARIE A. GUILLERMO
P.O. BOX 520240 TINIAN, MP 96952
(670) 433-0034 / (670) 783-6346

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ROSE MARIE A.
GUILLERMO
Petitioner,

vs.

RUBEN GUILLERMO
Respondent,

FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION
NO. 17-0333
SUMMONS FOR
PUBLICATION

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 520240, Tinian, MP 96952 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 30th day of January, 2018.
/s/
Clerk of Court

EMPLOYMENT

(1) Building and Ground Maintenance repairer. Extensive experience and references required. Contact Tapochau estates at 483-9351.

1 Commercial Cleaner, 1 General Maintenance - 3-5 years experience with valid driver's license. Police Clearance required. Email resume to BFJ Corporation at cisco.cnmi@yahoo.com

1 Commercial Cleaner, 1 General Maintenance - 3-5 years experience with valid driver's license. Police Clearance required. Email resume to San Vicente Estates at cisco.cnmi@yahoo.com

Danes Construction Corp.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN
(1) COMPUTER SUPPORT
TECHNICIAN

Interested applicants may send their resume to danes@guam.net

AM MACHINE SHOP &
CAR AIRCONDITIONING
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(3) Machinist

- At Least 3 years experience in Machining Job
- Fabricate & Modify parts Metal & Non Metal
- Can Operate Industrial Machines Like Lathe Machine, Milling Machine, Crankshaft Grinding Machine

(1) Car Aircon Technician

- At Least 3 years experience in Car Airconditioning Service Install, Repair & Service Car Airconditioning System

Contact Person: Adonis Santos
Contact No.: 323-2916

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For opportunities contact us at
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WHERE CAN
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Scan this barcode and apply using your smart phone today!

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WE ARE LOOKING FOR DYNAMIC INDIVIDUALS WHO STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE, VALUE, INTEGRITY AND TEAM WORK.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE AT T-GALLERIA

- Personal Shopper, Full-time/Non-Exempt (Ref#DFS721069)
- Concierge, Full-time/Non-Exempt (Ref#DFS721093)
- Korean Language Instructor, Part-time/Non-Exempt (Ref#DFS721072)
- Beauty Advisor, La Prairie, Full-time/Non-Exempt (Ref#DFS721090)
- Sales Associate, Tiffany, Full-time/Non-Exempt (Ref#DFS721091)
- Sales Associate, Fashion, Full-time/Non-Exempt (Ref#DFS721095)
- General Beauty Sales Associate, Part-time/Non-Exempt (Ref#DFS721092)

POSITIONS AVAILABLE AT Saipan International Airport

- Sales Associate, Luxury, Full-time/Non-Exempt (Ref#DFS721073)
- Sales Associate, Gucci, Full-time/Non-Exempt (Ref#DFS721094)
- Sales Associate, SWTFG, Full-time/Non-Exempt (Ref#DFS721094)

To apply for the positions, visit
WWW.APPLY.ATDFS.COM
Please indicate the Ref Number
CONFIDENTIAL CONTACT: ESTHER ADA, HR MANAGER, DFS SAIPAN LIMITED
HRSAIPAN@DFS.COM : +1670.234.6615
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THE TRAVELER'S LUXURY DEPARTMENT STORE

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LOS ANGELES | MACAU | MEDAN | MUMBAI | NEW DELHI | NEW YORK | OKINAWA
SAIPAN | SAN FRANCISCO | SINGAPORE | SYDNEY | CAMBODIA | VENICE

DFS GROUP.COM

MACS MARINE

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(2) Commercial Diver

- At least 3 years experience in Scuba Diving
- Knowledgeable in using diving apparatus
- Should know how to take appropriate safety precaution,and instruct Customers

(1) Maintenance Repairer

- At least 2 years experience
- Repair & Maintain Company Premises

Contact Person: Adonis Santos

Contact No.: 323-2916

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

WINCHELL’S DONUTS

1 vacancy for **Store Manager**. Wage per hour depends on qualifications. Must be college level and has at least 1 year of continued experience in managing bakery operations; must have knowledge in operating cash register or POS system; must be customer-service oriented, computer literate and confident in doing basic mathematical skills. Capability of conversing in basic Japanese or other foreign languages is highly preferred.

4 vacancies for **Donut Makers/Bakers**. Wage ranges from \$7.05/hr to \$8.00/hr. Must be a high school graduate with a few months to 1 year experience in baking; must be able to read, write and speak basic English; must be capable of lifting at least 50lbs and has basic mathematical skills. Capability of conversing in basic Japanese and other foreign languages is highly preferred.

Additional requirements: All applicants must be of good health with good moral character. Must be able to follow grooming standards; provide current police/court clearance and health certificate. Must have reliable transportation and willing to undergo drug test.

Please email your resume to

jobapplicant2014@gmail.com

AUTO MARINE INCORPORATION

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Accountant

- At least 3 years experience in Accounting
- Literate in PeachTree Accounting
- Prepares Financial Statement
- Other Related Duties

(1) Customer Representative

- At least 2 years experience.
- Can deal with the Tourist Customers
- Received Reservations and Schedule of Boat

(1) Commercial Diver

- At least 3 years experience in Scuba Diving
- Knowledgeable in using diving apparatus
- Should know how to take appropriate safety precaution,and instruct Customers

(1) Mechanic

- At Least 3 years experience in Engine Mechanic
- Repair & Maintain Company Boat & Automobiles

(2) Maintenance Repairer

- At least 2 years experience
- Repair & Maintain
- Company Premises

(1) Motor Boat Mechanic

- At Least 3 years experience in Engine Mechanic
- Overhauling Engine Equipment

Contact Person: Adonis Santos

Contact No.: 323-2916

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS JUDICIARY

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB18-JUDICIARY-01

SUBMISSION DATE: March 15, 2018

TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“PURCHASE OF TRANSPORT VEHICLE (12-15 Passenger Van)

FOR THE CNMI JUDICIARY, DRUG COURT DIVISION”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE CASHIER WINDOW, DOOR #5, LOCATED AT THE GUMA HUSTISIA / IIMWAL AWEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO

JUDICIARY EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY

/S/ JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ

JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: January 26, 2018 • CLOSING DATE: February 26, 2018 • TIME: 4:30 P.M.

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary:
2018-001	1-Special Assistant for Housing and LHTC Programs	\$35,000-\$50,000 (UNGRADED) (salary will be determined by the qualification of the applicant)
2018-002	1-Appliance Technician I	PL 10-01 to PL 10-04 \$23,394.03 to \$27,081.51-per annum
2018-003	1-Collector	PL 12-01 to PL 12-05 \$25,791.92 to \$31,350.24-per annum

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Acting Office Manager, at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS

Corporate Director

APEX BUILDERS, INC.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Accounting Technician (01) \$7.10 to 8.50 per hour
Must be a High School Graduate with a minimum of 2 years' experience as an Accounting Technician. Must Compute, classify, and record numerical data to keep financial records complete. Perform any combination of routine calculating, posting, and verifying duties to obtain primary financial data for use in maintaining accounting records. May also check the accuracy of figures, calculations, and postings pertaining to business transactions recorded by other workers. Operate computers programmed with accounting software such as quick books and peach tree.

Auto Body Repairer (2) \$7.10 - \$7.40/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of two years' experience as Auto Body Repairer. With knowledge how to repair and refinish automotive vehicle bodies and straighten vehicle frames. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Maintenance Technician (2) \$7.10- 7.20 per hour (SOC) 499071.00
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of two years' experience as Maintenance Technician. Perform work involving the skills of two or more maintenance or craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment, or the structure of an establishment in repair. Duties may involve pipe fitting; boiler making; insulating; welding; machining; carpentry; repairing electrical or mechanical equipment; installing, aligning, and balancing new equipment; and repairing buildings, floors, or stairs. With knowledge on how to install, maintain, and repair electrical wiring Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Machinist (2) \$7.10 - \$8.00 /hour
Must be a high school graduate with a minimum of 2 years' experience as a Machinist. Set up and operate a variety of machine tools to produce precision parts and instruments. Includes precision instrument makers who fabricate, modify, or repair mechanical instruments. May also fabricate and modify parts to make or repair machine tools or maintain industrial machines, applying knowledge of mechanics, mathematics, metal properties, layout, and machining procedures. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Sales Person (2) \$7.10 - \$7.50/hour
Must be a college graduate with a minimum of two to 2 years' work experience as a Sales Person. Able to sell merchandises such as light/heavy vehicles, motor vehicle parts, heavy equipment parts and appliances to customers. Great customers and assist their needs and wants, as well as to explain the merchandises and its usage, operation and proper care. Capable of recommending, selecting and helping customers obtain desired and needed products. Calculate prices, tally purchases, compute receivables and process cash and credit payments. Prepare sale slips or sale contracts and place special orders to the suppliers for the customer's desired items. Enjoy dealing with customers and answering their questions regarding the store merchandises

Welder (01) \$7.10- \$7.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of two years' experience as a Welder. With knowledge how to use hand-welding, flame-cutting, hand soldering, or brazing equipment to weld or join metal components or to fill holes, indentations, or seams of fabricated metal products. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience.

All of the above positions must be able to work flexible time. Interested applicants may apply at Apex Builders, Inc. office located at As Perdido, Saipan. A copy of police clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills, testing maybe required. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. Apex Builder, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

GPPC, INC.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Accounting Technician (04) \$7.10 - \$8.50/ hour or up to \$2,400.00 per month
College graduate with a minimum of 5 years' experience as an Accounting Technician. Must Compute, classify, and record numerical data to keep financial records complete. Perform any combination of routine calculating, posting, and verifying duties to obtain primary financial data for use in maintaining accounting records. May also check the accuracy of figures, calculations, and postings pertaining to business transactions recorded by other workers. Operate computers programmed with accounting software such as quick books and peach tree.

Administrative Assistant (01) \$7.10 - \$8.25 /hour
Must be a college graduate with a minimum of 2 years' experience. Knowledgeable on construction business. Provide high-level administrative support by conducting research, preparing statistical reports, handling information requests, and performing clerical functions such as preparing correspondence, receiving visitors, arranging conference calls, and scheduling meetings. May also train and supervise lower-level clerical staff. Prepare invoices, reports, memos, letters, financial statements, and other documents, using word processing, spreadsheet, database, or presentation software.

Architectural Drafter Technician (4) \$7.10 - \$8.75/hour
College graduate with a minimum of 2 years' experience as an Architectural Drafter Technician. Prepare detailed drawings of architectural designs and plans for buildings and structures according to specifications provided by architect. Capable of preparing detailed drawings of architectural/structural features of buildings as well as drawings and photographic relief maps used in civil engineering projects such as highways, bridges and other public works. Knowledgeable on building materials engineering practices/mathematics used to complete drawings drafts.

Auto Body Repairer (2) \$7.10 - \$7.25/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum 2 years' experience as Auto Body Repairer. With knowledge how to repair and refinish automotive vehicle bodies and straighten vehicle frames. Sand body areas to be painted and cover bumpers, windows, and trim with masking tape or paper to protect them from the paint. Fit and weld replacement parts into place, using wrenches and welding equipment, and grind down welds to smooth them, using power grinders and other tools. Prime and paint repaired surfaces, using paint spray guns and motorized sanders.

Automobile Electrician (2) \$7.10 - \$7.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of five years' work related experience. Able to diagnose and undertake electrical repairs on a wide variety of vehicles and heavy equipment. With knowledge on electric motor, alternator, starter and motor rewinding.

Carpenter (28) \$7.10 - \$7.85/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of five years' experience as a Carpenter. With knowledge how to construct, erect, install, or repair structures and fixtures made of wood, such as concrete forms; building frameworks, including partitions, joists, studding, and rafters; and wood stairways, window and door frames, and hardwood floors. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Civil Engineering Technicians (4) \$7.10- 9.00/hour or up to \$2,200.00 per month
Must be a college graduate with minimum of two years' experience as a Civil Engineering Technician with knowledge how to apply Theory and Principles of Civil Engineering in planning, designing and overseeing construction, structure maintenance and facilities under the directions of engineering staff or physical scientist.

Construction Manager (1) \$3,000.00-\$3,250.00 per month
College graduate or with a minimum 5 years experience as a Construction Manager. Knowledge direct or coordinate through subordinate supervisory personnel activities in regards to maintenance of structures, facilities and systems. Participate in the conceptual development project and oversee its organization, scheduling, budgeting and implementation. Includes specialized construction fields such as carpentry or plumbing.

Diesel Mechanic (1) \$7.10 - \$7.25 /hour
Must be a high school graduate with a minimum of five years' work related experience. Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul buses and trucks, or maintain and repair any type of diesel engines. Includes mechanics working primarily with automobile or marine diesel engines.

Electricians (9) \$7.10 - \$7.95 /hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years experience as Electrician. With knowledge on how to install, maintain, and repair electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures. Able to install or service street lights, intercom systems, or electrical control systems.

General Maintenance (3) \$7.10 - \$7.30 /hour
High school graduate with a minimum of 2 years experience as General Maintenance on how to install equipment. Perform work involving the skills of two or more maintenance or craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment, or the structure of an establishment in repair. Duties may involve pipe fitting; boiler making; insulating; welding; machining; carpentry; repairing electrical or mechanical equipment; installing, aligning, and balancing new equipment; and repairing buildings, floors, or stairs.

Heavy Equipment Mechanic (14) \$7.10 - \$8.50 /hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 5 years experience as Heavy Equipment Mechanic. With knowledge how to diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automobiles, hydraulic, and pneumatic equipment, such as cranes, bulldozers, graders, excavators, trucks and conveyors, typically used in constructions.

Heavy Equipment Operator (34) \$7.10 - \$8.00 /hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years' experience as HE Operator. With knowledge how to operate several types of power construction equipment, such as motor graders, bulldozers, trenching machine, scrapers, compressors, pumps, derricks, shovels, tractors, or front-end loaders to excavate, move, and grade earth, erect structures, or pour concretes and etc.

Machinist (1) \$7.10 - \$8.00 /hour
Must be a high school graduate with a minimum of 2 years' experience as a Machinist. Set up and operate a variety of machine tools to produce precision parts and instruments. Includes precision instrument makers who fabricate, modify, or repair mechanical instruments. May also fabricate and modify parts to make or repair machine tools or maintain industrial machines, applying knowledge of mechanics, mathematics, metal properties, layout, and machining procedures.

Mason (35) \$7.10 - \$8.10/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 3 years experience as Mason. With knowledge how to do smooth and finish surfaces of poured concrete, such as floors, walks, sidewalks, roads, or curbs using a variety of hand and power tools. Align forms for sidewalks, curbs, or gutters; patch voids; and use saws to cut expansion joints.

Mechanical Engineering Technicians (03) \$7.10-8.00 /hour
Must be a college graduate with minimum of 2 years' experience as a Mechanical Engineering Technician with knowledge on how to apply Theory and Principles of Mechanical Engineering in planning, designing and overseeing construction, structure maintenance and other facilities under the directions of engineering staff or physical scientists.

Painter (4) \$7.10 - \$7.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum 5 years experience as Painter. Knowledgeable on how to operate/tend various painting machines. Able to paint transportation equipment surfaces, such as automobiles, buses, trucks, trains, boats, airplanes ad etc.

Plumber (8) \$7.10 - \$7.90 /hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years experienced as a plumber with knowledge to assemble, install alter and repair pipelines or pipe systems that carry water, steam, air or other liquids or gases. May install heating and cooling equipment and mechanical control systems and sprinkler fitters.

Rigger (02) \$7.10 - \$7.25/hour
Must be a high school graduate with 2 years work experience on related field of construction. Set up or repair rigging for construction projects, manufacturing plants, logging yards, ships and shipyards, or for the entertainment industry.

Sheet Metal Worker (02) \$7.10 - \$7.25/hour
High school graduate with minimum 2 years experienced as a Sheet Metal Worker. With knowledge on how to install pre-fabricated sheet metal ducts used for heating, air conditioning or other purposes

Steel Worker (7) \$7.10 - \$7.50 /hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 5 years experience as a Steel Worker. With knowledge how to rise, place and unite iron or steel girders, R columns and structural members to form a completed structures or structural frameworks. May erect metal storage tanks and assemble prefabricated metal buildings. Position and secure steel bars or mesh in concrete forms in order to reinforce concrete.

Tower Crane Operator (02) \$7.10 - \$7.25 /hour
High school graduate with a minimum of 2 years work related experience. Must be able to comply with all safety regulations and work with minimal supervision.

Truck Driver (1) \$710 - \$8.75/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2-5 years experiences as a Truck Driver with knowledge on how to drive a Tractor Trailer or Trucks that has a capacity of at least 26,000 GVW for various construction materials transportation.

Welder (10) \$7.10 - \$7.50 /hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years experience as a Welder. With knowledge how to use hand-welding, flame-cutting, hand soldering, or brazing equipment to weld or join metal components or to fill holes, indentations, or seams of fabricated metal products.

All of the above positions must be able to work flexible time. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Interested applicants may apply at GPPC, INC. office located at As Perdido, Saipan. A copy of police clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills, testing maybe required. GPPC, INC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Hosmer signs historic 8-year, \$144M deal with Padres



SAN DIEGO
(AP)—First baseman Eric

Hosmer agreed to sign with the San Diego Padres on Saturday night, hoping to supercharge their rebuilding efforts and landing their biggest free agent prize in franchise history, sources said.

The 28-year-old Hosmer, ranked fourth in Yahoo Sports' Ultimate Free Agent Tracker, parlayed a career-best season at the plate into a lucrative deal that will last eight years (with an opt out after five) for \$144 million. It's the first nine-figure deal ever given out by the Padres. The deal was first reported by the San Diego Union-Tribune.

With it, they confer upon Hosmer the duty to lead the franchise in coming years. It's a role at which he excelled in Kansas City, which selected him with the third overall pick in the 2008 draft, saw him debut three years later, won a championship with him four years after that and last season watched him hit .318/.385/.498. While opinions range widely on his defense—metrics say he's terrible, scouts adore him.

He entered a free agent market crowded with players, though he was clearly a tier above Carlos Santana, whom the Philadelphia Phillies gave \$60 million for three years.



That was simply an appetizer for Hosmer, whose combination of age and talent was too tempting for the Padres to let him pass.

Still, the price of Hosmer's deal was the object of significant discussion throughout the industry. The Boston Red

Sox passed on Hosmer, sticking with Mitch Moreland for a two-year, \$13 million deal. The Royals and Padres were the two linked to him the most, and while neither regularly dabbles in the elite free agent market, San Diego ended up winning in the end.

For what they'll pay him, they can only hope his offensive production at least mirrors last season's. Questions about Hosmer's bat holding up over the course of the entire contract scared off some teams, but agent Scott Boras wasn't budging. And though the market wasn't bustling by the end, it was big enough to land Hosmer the largest deal thus far of the 2017-18 offseason.

Meanwhile, the Minnesota Twins acquired right-handed

pitcher Jake Odorizzi from the Tampa Bay Rays on Saturday night for minor league infielder Jermaine Palacios, securing some needed depth for their rotation after missing out on several free agents.

The 27-year-old Odorizzi will join his third major league team in the Twins, who won't have right-hander Ervin Santana for the first several weeks of the regular season while he recovers from surgery on his middle finger. Kyle Gibson, Jose Berrios and Adalberto

AP
Kansas City Royals' Eric Hosmer catches the ball during the third inning of a baseball game against the Chicago White Sox at Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, Mo., Saturday, May 4, 2013.

Mejia are the only other returning pitchers who made more than 10 starts for the Twins in 2017.

Phil Hughes is also in the mix, recovering from a second thoracic outlet surgery on his ribs in as many years, but the Twins were concerned enough about their lack of proven candidates to make the trade for Odorizzi. They've also, according to multiple reports, reached an agreement with right-hander Anibal Sanchez, who has made 262 starts for the Tigers and Marlins over the last 12 seasons.

For the Rays in 2017, Odorizzi went 10-8 with a 4.14 ERA and 127 strikeouts in 143 1/3 innings over 28 starts. He pitched a career-best 187 2/3 innings over 33 starts in 2016, posting a 3.69 ERA. Odorizzi was drafted by Milwaukee 32nd overall in 2008. He made his debut with Kansas City in 2012 before being dealt to Tampa Bay the next season. He's 40-38 with a 3.83 ERA in 705 1/3 major league innings.

The 21-year-old Palacios has a .290 career average over four minor league seasons. He finished last year with Class A Fort Myers. To make room for Odorizzi on the 40-man roster, the Twins transferred right-handed pitcher Michael Pineda to the 60-day disabled list.

Tiger misses cut at Riviera, moves forward to Florida



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy were talking

down the 17th fairway at Riviera when they stopped for a moment as McIlroy began rehearsing elements of a swing. It looked for a brief moment like an impromptu lesson.

Not quite. They were talking about drivers and spin rates and other technical issues.

Woods isn't looking for another coach.

McIlroy says all Woods really needs his time, beyond the additional two days he has off after Woods missed the cut in the Genesis Open.

"He's very close. He is very close," McIlroy said a second time for emphasis. "Give him a little bit of time. He's still figuring a few things about with equipment, sort of in between drivers and whatever, but he's close."

That's what Woods used to say when he was changing his swing on healthy knees and a back that had not been touched four times by surgeries. He used to get it sorted out eventually, winning majors with three different swings.

But now, the talk about be-

ing close is more about simply getting into contention.

Woods began his latest comeback with a tie for 23rd at Torrey Pines three weeks ago, a return that brought promise because of the difficult conditions and thick rough. He refused to call it a setback when he had eight bogeys in his round of 5-over 76 to miss the cut by four shots at Riviera.

"I missed every tee shot left and I did not putt well ... and consequently never made a run," Woods said. "I knew I had to make a run on that back nine and I went the other way."

His hopes of playing the weekend at Riviera ended with a three-putt bogey from 40 feet on No. 11, a three-putt bogey from 80 feet on No. 12 and a tee shot he pulled badly to the left and into the trees, leaving his a 3-iron instead of a wedge into the green. He made a third straight bogey.

Two weeks and six rounds into his return, he has work to do.

"I'm both pleased and also not very happy with some parts of it," Woods said when asked what he thought of his game. "It's nice to be back

competing again and to be able to go out there and play, practice after each round. That's been nice, something I haven't done in years. So keep building."

He gets back to the construction site next week at the Honda Classic.

Woods was asked at the start of the week if he would be better off as an assistant captain or a player for the Ryder Cup, assuming he had a good enough year to finish around 20th in the points, high enough to be considered for a pick.

His answer: Why not both?

One part should come true. Ryder Cup captain Jim Furyk is expected to appoint Woods and Steve Stricker as vice captains Tuesday during the Honda Classic. That's not an indication that Woods has lowered expectations or goals. The unknown in this case is how much time he needs to get to where he wants to be.

It was announced Friday, after Woods began his second round, that he is playing the Honda Classic next week. "I've just got to play more tournaments," he said.

Woods showed plenty of good golf.

Back on top, Federer becomes oldest world No. 1

ROTTERDAM (AP)—Roger Federer added yet another record to his vast collection when he guaranteed becoming the oldest ATP world number one by beating Dutchman Robin Haase, 4-6, 6-1, 6-1 to reach the semifinals in Rotterdam.

Fresh from winning his 20th grand slam title in Melbourne this month, Federer took a wildcard into the ABN AMRO World Tennis event with his eyes fixed on a return to number one for the first time since November 2012.

Needing to reach the last four to overtake great rival Rafael Nadal, Federer showed some early nerves in his quarter-final clash in the port city's Ahoy Arena, dropping serve in the ninth game on his way to conceding the first set.

But the 36-year-old Swiss, as he usually does, moved through the gears to punish a physically struggling Haase.

A demoralized Haase double-faulted on match point and after an initially restrained celebration Federer sat on his

chair and looked close to tears as his feat sank in—as did some of the Swiss fans leading the rapturous applause.

"Reaching number one is one of, if not the ultimate achievement in our sport," Federer said on court after being handed a huge No. 1 shaped plaque by Dutch former Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek, the tournament director.

"Sometimes at the beginning you just kind of get there because you played so well, but later you have to fight for it and have to wrestle it back from someone who deserves to be there. When you are older you maybe have to put double the work in. This maybe means the most to me in my career."

Federer, whose glittering career has re-ignited since taking six months off in 2016, has won three of the last five grand slams having gone five years without one.

One of the greatest ever late-career runs by any sports-

man or woman means he surpasses Andre Agassi who was the previous oldest man to top the ATP rankings.

American Agassi was 33 when he scaled the summit in 2003.

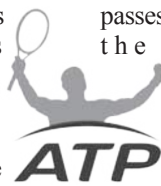
He was one of the first to congratulate Federer.

"Roger Federer continues to raise the bar in our sport. Congratulations on yet another remarkable achievement!!" Agassi said on Twitter.

Federer also set another record with the more than five-year gap between his previous and most recent stints as world number one being the longest since ATP rankings began in 1973.

Incredibly Federer first reached number one in 2004, as a 22-year-old, and having now returned there 14 years later playing some of the best tennis of his career, he looks capable of another lengthy stretch on the throne.

He already holds the record of 302 weeks ranked number one.



Jazz's Mitchell wins slam dunk contest

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rookie Donovan Mitchell of the Utah Jazz put on a show in the slam dunk contest to cap off NBA All-Star Saturday.

Mitchell edged Larry Nance Jr. by two points, sealing his victory with a close approximation of the 360-degree spin dunk that Vince Carter used to win the 2000 contest.

"I wanted this so badly," Mitchell said. "This is one of my favorite events of All-Star weekend. To not only be in it, but to win it, it's crazy."

Before making his winning dunk, Mitchell peeled off his Jazz jersey and wore a vintage Carter jersey from the Toronto Raptors.

Mitchell—three inches shorter than the 6-foot-6 Carter—needed a score of 47 to beat Nance, and he got a 48 from the five judges: DJ Khaled, Mark Wahlberg, Chris Rock and Hall of Famers Julius Erving and Lisa Leslie.

Nance, who was trying to win the contest 34 years after his father won it, had earned a perfect 50 with a dunk off a double alley-oop off the glass.

Mitchell advanced to the finals with a creative dunk in the first round that used his sister, Jordan, as well as Kevin Hart and the comedian's son as props. For that dunk, Mitchell wore a Darrell Griffith Jazz jersey. Griffith participated in the first slam dunk contest in 1984.

"I appreciate Kevin Hart coming out there and helping me out," Mitchell said. "He's my favorite comedian."

In other news, Devin Booker of the Phoenix Suns won the 3-point contest with a record 28 points in the final round. He beat 2016 cham-

pion Klay Thompson of the Golden State Warriors and Tobias Harris of the Los Angeles Clippers.

"It feels really good," Booker said. "I wanted to go out there and make a name for myself."

Did he ever. He was sensational in the final round on Saturday, when he missed only five of 25 shots.

Each player shot five five-ball racks with a one-minute time limit. The final ball of each one was a "money ball" worth two points, and one of the racks, usually the last one, was all money balls. Booker made the money ball shot on his first four racks, and then made four of the five balls on the money ball rack.

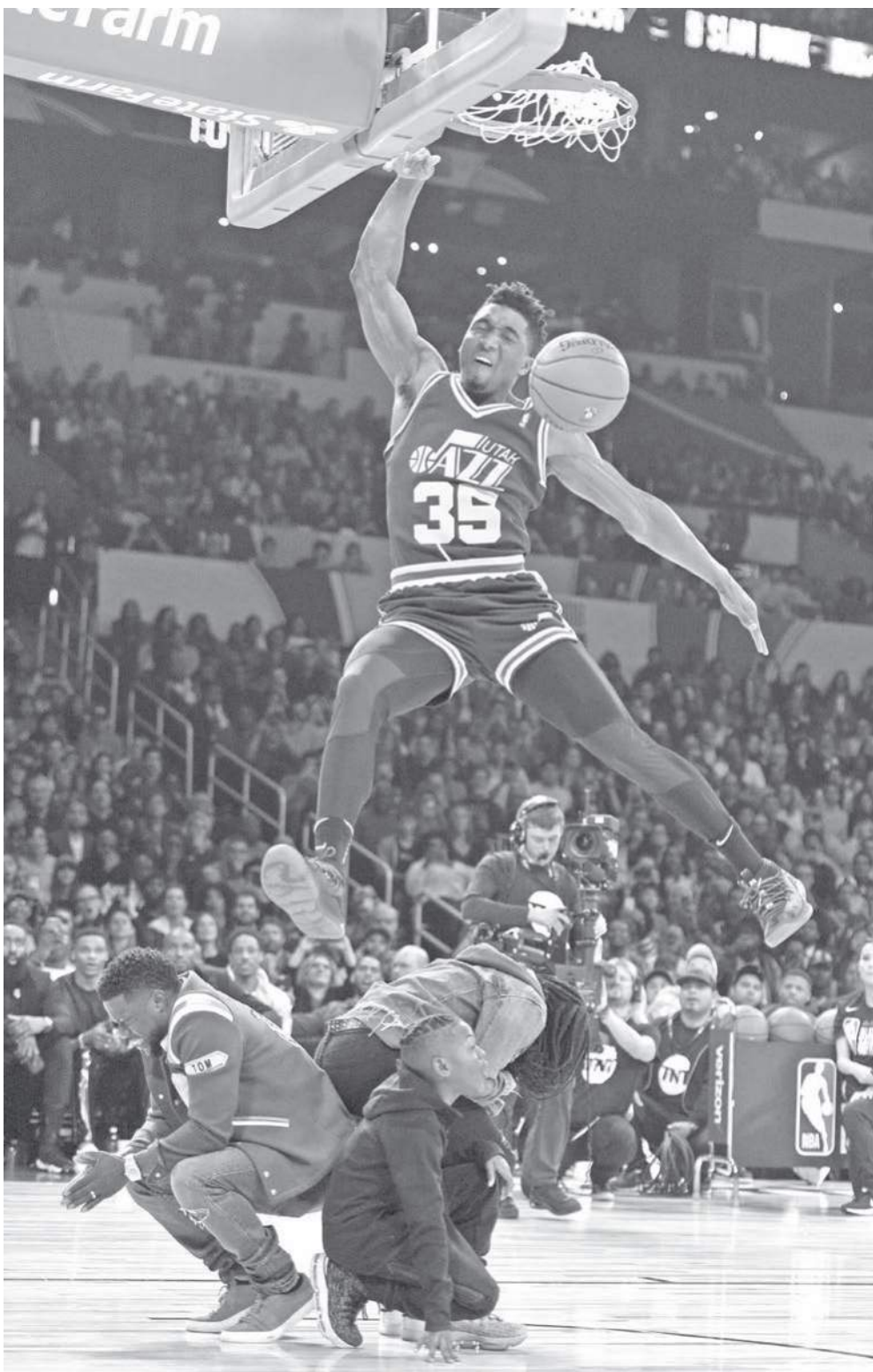
Harris, Booker and Thompson advanced from the eight-man field to the finals. Harris scored 17 points before Booker scorched the nets for 28 points. Thompson followed and scored 25 points.

The previous record was 27 points, set by Stephen Curry in 2015 and matched by Thompson the following year.

Booker, the 21-year-old sharpshooter in his third season with Phoenix, is averaging 24.2 points per game this season as the NBA's 12th-leading scorer. Eleven months after the shooting guard dropped 70 points against Boston to become the youngest player in NBA history to score even 60 in a game, Booker added another accolade to his promising career with the 3-Point title.

Thompson beat the buzzer with his final shot of the first round to reach the finals with 19 points. Booker also scored 19 and Harris had 18.

Spencer Dinwiddie of the



Brooklyn Nets won the skills challenge to kick off NBA All-Star Saturday.

Dinwiddie, who played at Taft High in the Woodland Hills neighborhood of Los

Angeles, beat Lauri Markkanen of the Chicago Bulls in the final round.

Utah Jazz's Donovan Mitchell dunks over three people, including actor Kevin Hart, left, during the NBA All-Star basketball Slam Dunk contest, Saturday, Feb. 17, 2018, in Los Angeles.

The skills competition consisted of two players going head to head. They dribbled around pylons, passed the ball into a net, dribbled to the other end of the floor for a layup and then dribbled back to the other end to take a pull-up 3-pointer.

Eight players started the competition, with Dinwiddie and Markkanen advancing to the final.

Markkanen struggled passing the ball into the net, giving Dinwiddie a big lead. Dinwiddie dribbled down the floor and missed his first 3, but drained the next one to win.

Meanwhile, Commissioner Adam Silver lauded the National Basketball Players Association and the National Basketball Referees Association for meeting to discuss tensions between the two sides, and said the league "should be playing a very active role in bridging that gap."

Silver said at his annual state of the NBA address that he didn't know much about Saturday's meeting but had seen a joint statement.

"I was pleased to see they focused on themes of respect and empathy," he said. "It's a great statement about the league that these stakeholders think it's important enough and they have an obligation to the game that they should be sitting down and talking to each other."

"I said it before, this isn't about ratcheting up fines. There are larger issues here."

Team LeBron vs Team Stephen

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Long considered a playground clash of wills anyway, the NBA All-Star Game will fully embrace its inner schoolyard Sunday at Staples Center with its hand-picked teams captained by two alpha males of the league.

Whether the competitive nature of the showcase game changes, especially on defense, remains to be seen as the NBA's best now dedicate themselves to either Team LeBron or Team Stephen—instead of conference.

The mystique that is LeBron James' magic touch has already taken a hit as four members of his team have gone down with injuries. Two of those—DeMarcus Cousins (Achilles) and Kristaps Porzingis (knee)—have been lost

for the season.

But this team was built with inside-out abilities and James, Kevin Durant and Anthony Davis figure to be the nucleus it revolves around.

"It's going to be good," James told TNT shortly after the squads were selected. "Listen, I have a 7-foot guy playing a two-guard in Kevin Durant so we got a chance. We got a real good chance."

Added to the intrigue of Team LeBron is the presence of Kyrie Irving, the Boston Celtics' point guard who requested a trade out of Cleveland to get out from James' shadow.

"I feel like it was a great choice," Irving said with a smile on "Jimmy Kimmel Live" this week.

It should come as no surprise that Steph Curry's team

can shoot and score at will. The counter to Team LeBron's inside-out game is the shoot-off-the-dribble talents of Curry and James Harden, with Klay Thompson coming off the bench.

Combine that with the all-around game of Giannis Antetokounmpo, while the inside will be occupied by Joel Embiid, Karl-Anthony Towns and Al Horford. DeMar DeRozan will run the team from the point.

"I have a good (rapport) with DeMar and (Harden), playing on Team USA world championship teams with them," Curry told TNT. "Joel will obviously be a future All-Star for plenty more years."

Excuse Embiid if his energy level is low by the time the All-Star Game rolls around

Sunday evening. His breakout weekend has been a busy one, even with a recent ankle injury, as he also had scheduled appearances in the Rising Stars game and the Skills Challenge.

"The last two days (the ankle) has been feeling better," Embiid said at his All-Star weekend press conference on Friday. "But there was never really a thought about missing out on any of these events. It's my first time, so I'm going to have fun."

When the teams were selected, Team LeBron was considered the heavy favorite, and while the squad's injuries have tempered that perceived advantage some, the expectation is that Team Stephen remains at a slight disadvantage.

The game does have more intrigue than just James vs. Curry, James reunited with Irving and the bigs of Team LeBron vs. the shooters of

Team Stephen. There is also Russell Westbrook reunited with Durant on Team LeBron and Durant playing against his Golden State Warriors teammates of Curry, Thompson and Draymond Green.

"It would've been cool to get everyone on the same team again, but we got four All-Stars," Curry said, according to the San Jose Mercury News. "I'm looking forward to playing against (Durant) and see what Team LeBron is all about. It'll be a cool experience."

ALL-STAR ROSTERS TEAM LEBRON

Starters: DeMarcus Cousins, C, Pelicans (INJURED); Anthony Davis, F/C, Pelicans; Kevin Durant, F, Warriors; Kyrie Irving, G, Celtics; LeBron James, G/F, Cavaliers.

Reserves: LaMarcus Aldridge, F, Spurs; Bradley

Beal, G, Wizards; Goran Dragic, G, Heat; Andre Drummond, C, Pistons; Paul George, F, Thunder; Kevin Love, F/C, Cavaliers (INJURED); Victor Oladipo, G, Pacers; Kristaps Porzingis, F/C, Knicks (injured); Kemba Walker, G, Hornets; John Wall, G, Wizards; Russell Westbrook, G, Thunder.

TEAM STEPHEN

Starters: Giannis Antetokounmpo, F, Bucks; Stephen Curry, G, Warriors; DeMar DeRozan, G, Raptors; Joel Embiid, C, 76ers; James Harden, G, Rockets.

Reserves: Jimmy Butler, G, Timberwolves; Draymond Green, F, Warriors; Al Horford, F/C, Celtics; Damian Lillard, G, Trail Blazers; Kyle Lowry, G, Raptors; Klay Thompson, G, Warriors; Karl-Anthony Towns, C, Timberwolves.

Titanium spoils Mariners' SBL debut

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

Bill Camacho pitched six solid innings, while Lucio Kalen drove in two runs as Titanium defeated the Mariners, 12-7, in their rain-shortened match in the Saipan Baseball League last Friday night at the Francisco M. Palacios Ballfield.

Intermittent rains halted

the game and league officials decided to call it off when a heavy downpour interrupted the match for the third time and made the field wet. The game was suspended at the top of the eighth when the Mariners were about to bat and victory was awarded to Titanium based on league rules on rained-out matches (game must be played for at

least five innings)

Camacho was on the mound for six complete innings, giving up four runs on five hits with three strikeouts and one walk. He even tossed three-shutout and one-hit innings from the first to third with Titanium holding on to a one-run lead.

Kalen, meanwhile, let his



bat do the talking, going 2-for-5 with three runs and two RBIs. He had an RBI single in Titanium's six-run inning in the fifth where three other batters got on base on walks three times and the Mariners' defense committed two costly errors.

Gerald Cabrera went

2-for-2 also for Titanium with two runs—one brought Kalen home at the bottom of the fifth. Tony Deleon Guerrero had an RBI double in the fourth, as the Titanium shortstop went 2-for-5 with two runs.

Joe Villagomez, Nate Smith, and Nate Guerrero alternated on the mound for the debuting Mariners and surrendered a combined 14 hits, five strikeouts, and four walks.

went 0-for-2 against Kapileo.

Franco Nakamura went 1-for-2, but had three runs and three RBIs, including a two-RBI single in GSM's eight-run scoring barrage in the fourth. Veteran Byron Kaipat went 2-for-2 with two runs and two RBIs, while Pat Alepuyo was 2-for-3, scored twice, and had an RBI. Jerome Delos Santos added two doubles on a 2-for-4 batting with two runs and two RBIs.

GSM had 11 hits against the Ballistics' bullpen—composed of Riungel, Jake Santos, and Adolpho Rogopes with the latter closing out for the team. Santos pitched in relief and had four strikeouts, but was tagged with 12 runs on nine hits.

Meanwhile, SBL action continues tonight with the 2016 season champions C.K. Bears battling the Jonathan Tenorio-managed Indians at 6:30pm.

Tough decision for Rangamar

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

Mariana Islands Basketball Federation development officer Elias Rangamar will be making a tough decision as he has to trim down the 30 players that tried out for slots on the Micronesian-Games bound CNMI men's national team.

Rangamar will be going through the notes and assessment he made for each player

and would cut the number to half and then select the final 12 players who will represent the CNMI to the Micro Games that will be held in Yap from July 15 to 27.

"It will be a tough decision for me to make since there are a lot of good players. I've seen a lot of potential players that could help the CNMI in the Micro Games," Rangamar told *Saipan Tribune* after Saturday's final tryout at the Gil-



bert C. Ada Gymnasium.

"But, I have to make the selection.

Not making the cut does not mean you're not a good player. I plan to meet them one at a time and explain why they are chosen or why they did not make the cut," Rangamar said.

He added that he would point out to each player their strengths and weaknesses during his one-on-one session

with the team hopefuls.

"There are a lot of players who are good shooters, can read the defense, and handle the ball. I've mentioned before that I'm not looking for one-dimensional players. I want all-around players," said Rangamar.

He will announce the rosters of the men's and women's teams before the end of the month since they must begin their training for the Micro Games next month.



JON PEREZ

Mariana Islands Basketball Federation development officer Elias Rangamar talks to the CNMI men's national basketball team hopefuls after last Saturday's final tryout at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

CRUZ

From Page 28

Cruz, who usually competes in the women's 69kg division, started off in CrossFit before transitioning to weightlifting with the help of Salvi Villanueva, Angel San Nicolas, and Joey Tudela.

The veteran lifter was challenged by Camacho, Kenty, Rangamar, and Santos, who are also vying for slots on the CNMI women's national basketball team. Pangelinan, on the other hand, is a promising sprinter. Veteran basketball and athletics coach Elias Ran-

gamar encouraged their athletes to join the one-day competition to boost their strength and stamina.

Lia had lifts of 32kg in the snatch and 44kg in the clean and jerk for a total of 76kgs, while Camacho tallied 73kgs behind successful lifts of 31kgs and 42kgs. Kenty had a total of 61kgs (26kg snatch; 35kgs clean and jerk), Santos earned 59kgs (28kgs snatch; 31kgs clean and jerk), and Pangelinan tallied 55kgs (23kgs snatch; 32kgs clean and jerk).

Kenty could have increased her total weight, but was unsuccessful in her third and final

attempt of 28kgs in the snatch.

The qualifying event also had a men's division contest with 11 joining the competition. The list included veterans San Nicolas, Tudela, Ray Santos, Leo Apelo, Dave Barnes Jr., but final results in the division were unavailable at press time.

Entries in the men's division had represented the CNMI in previous weightlifting tournaments in the region with San Nicolas clinching the bronze medal in last year's Pacific Mini Games in Vanuatu for the Commonwealth's lone medal in the quadrennial meet.

Meanwhile, CWF president

John Davis told *Saipan Tribune* that their executive committee would meet tomorrow to discuss the final composition of the women's team.

"Joining the qualifying event doesn't mean that you're already on the team. The executive committee will meet on Tuesday to know who goes to the Micro Games. We're expecting two more female lifters who are off-island and also competed in previous events. We need to discuss this since we need to submit the names."

The 2018 Micronesian Games is set from July 15 to 28.

SAIPAN

From Page 28

standings and join Fiesta Resort (10-0) and Kanoa Resort (7-3) in the Final Four. POI ended up with a 4-6 mark, the same record that Shirley's Coffee Shop earned after falling to Fiesta (65-70) in last Friday's second game. POI and Shirley's deadlock will be broken via point system (total points scored in 10 games minus total points allowed) and organizers have yet to announce the winner in the tie and owner of the fourth and last semis berth at press time.

Djay Ong, who flew in from Guam last Thursday just to play in the crucial game, made sure *Saipan Tribune* would not be caught in a tiebreak for the final semis ticket, as he scored 34 points to power his squad to the important victory.

Ong had 9 straight points in *Saipan Tribune*'s 11-2 windup in the last four minutes and change of the first half, helping his squad turn an 18-13 lead to a double-digit advantage, 29-15. Lester Lapuz delivered the 2 other points in *Saipan Tribune*'s strong finish in the first half, while POI's lone basket was courtesy of Nak Nakashima's putback.

The 6'1" Ong continued to do the damage for *Saipan Tribune* in the second half, upping the team's lead to as much as 17 before POI mounted a comeback behind Nakashima and Ferdie Arago. Arago's acrobatic shot over the outstretched arms of Ong brought the deficit down to single digit, 26-35, but Mico Usi knocked in a rally-halting triple to bring order back to *Saipan Tribune*.

Despite its failed attempt to move closer, POI still fought back and cut the deficit to 10 a couple of times. However, Ong and Lester Lapuz alternately nailed baskets that disrupted POI's momentum and kept *Saipan Tribune*'s safe distance en route to the squad's 11-point win.

With the semis-clinching victory, *Saipan Tribune* arrange a duel for a final berth against the second-ranked Kanoa Resort, while Fiesta will dispute the other finals ticket against the winner of the Shirley's-POI tiebreak.

Fiesta completed a sweep of the elimination after eking out a 5-point win over Shirley's.

Fiesta made free throws in the homestretch and leaned on Troy Ngirarois and Lerio Pagarao in the second half to foil Shirley's upset bid and take the No. 1 spot in the team standings. Ngirarois finished with a team-high 14 points, while Pagarao added 11. John Jugos had 21 markers on a losing effort for Shirley's.

Second Game

Fiesta Resort 70 — Ngirarois 14, Pagarao 11, Nonato 8, Demafeliz 8, Esdrelon 6, Arreza 6, Matsutaro 4, Magat 3, Sedillo 2, Francisco 2.

Shirley's 65 — Jugos 21, Laxa 15, Guiab 15, Diaz 7, Palma 4, Bordon 2, Alonzo 2.

Scoring by halves: 34-33, 70-65.

Third Game

Saipan Tribune 58 — D. Ong 34, Lapuz 12, Usi 6, Orbeta 2, Angeles 2, Calibo 2.

POI Aviation 47 — Santos 13, Nakashima 12, Tenepere 8, Arago 6, Kaipat 6, Yu 2.

Scoring by halves: 29-15, 58-47.

Agape Torchbearers' Cup

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Agape Christian School students sprint to the finish line during the 60m run event in the 2018 Torchbearers' Cup held at the American Memorial Park early this month.



Agape students race in the 60m run.



An Agape student receives a pass from her teammate during their captain's ball game.



An Agape teacher tosses the ball to start the captain's ball match between green and red teams.



A red team player holds on to the ball while he looks for an open teammate.



A red team member tries to prevent the green team's captain ball from catching the ball.



Agape students compete in the tug-of-war event.



An Agape student does the jump rope, while a fellow student waits for her turn.



Hosmer signs historic 8-year, \$144M deal with Padres

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Jazz's Mitchell wins slam dunk contest

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28 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2018

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Junior player Robbie Schorr earned a finals appearance in two singles events in the 2018 Coconut Tennis Classic after winning his matches over the weekend at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Schorr first booked a ticket in the championship game in the boys U16 singles event after sweeping Seung in Paik in their semis tiff at the upper half of the draw, 6-0, 6-3. The No. 1 seed Schorr, who got a bye in the opening week of the tournament, made it to the Final Four after shutting down Sam Ryu, 6-0, 6-0, while Paik followed

ROSELYN B. MONROYO Robbie Schorr goes for a backhand return during his and J.C. Ferrer's game against Jeff Race and Juncheol Hwang in the 2018 Coconut Tennis Classic last weekend at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

2 finals tickets for Schorr

suit as he eliminated No. 4 seed Sean Lee, 7-6, 6-3.

Schorr's finals foe is No. 3 Ji Min Woo, who foiled the title showdown between the Top 2 seeds in the event after pulling off an upset over No. 2 Ken Song at the lower half of the draw, 6-3, 6-2. Woo arranged a semis showdown opposite Song following a 6-0, 6-0 triumph over Kazuna Nakabayashi. Song, on the other hand, was paired against Eugene Park and eased his way to a 6-1, 6-1 victory to make it to the Final Four.

The Woo-Schorr title duel will be played today at 8am, while Song and Paik will collide at the same time for the third place honors.

After his finals showdown against Woo, Schorr will return to the AMP courts to face



Moris Villanueva for the men's singles championship.

The 2016 Tan Siu Lin Foundation/NMSA Student Athlete of the Year marched into the finals of the men's singles play after downing Song in their semis tiff yesterday morning, 6-2, 6-4. Song, before losing to Schorr, topped Steven Goodwin, 6-4, 6-3, to move into the Final Four.

Villanueva also took two sets in the pair of games he won to earn the right to challenge Schorr in the finals. Villanueva first eliminated Woo, 6-2, 6-3, and then Jeff Race, 7-5, 6-1.

The Villanueva-Schorr finale is scheduled at 11am. Schorr was also gunning for a third finals berth in the tournament, as he and J.C. Ferrer battled Race and Juncheol

Hwang in the mixed up doubles event yesterday afternoon and results of their game were unavailable at press time.

Meanwhile, in the boys U14 singles, No. 2 seed Daniel Kang bagged the first finals slot. Kang ousted Hyunmin Cho last Saturday, 6-0, 6-0, and then downed No. 2 Eubin Park, 7-5, 6-0, to move into the title game, which will be played today. Kang will meet either Richard Steele or Andy Kim. Steele beat Seung Won Lee in the quarterfinals, 6-2, 6-1, to move one step away from reaching the finals. Kim joined Steele in the semis following a 6-0, 6-1 victory against Danny Lee. Kim and Steele fought for the last finals ticket yesterday afternoon and results of their match were unavailable at press time.

Cruz boosts bid for Micro Games stint



By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Bonnylynn Cruz increased her chances of making it to the CNMI national weightlifting team after the veteran led five other competitors in the CNMI Weightlifting Federation's qualifying event held at the Latte Built 24-Hour Fitness and Nutrition Center in San Jose last Saturday.

Cassandra Camacho, Halle Kenty, Jaime Pangelinan, Lia Rangamar, and Eleina Santos joined Cruz in the competition that served as a qualifier

for the national squad that will represent the Commonwealth to the 2018 Micronesian Games in Yap. A good number of youth athletes participated

in the weightlifting competition for the first time for their cross training in basketball and athletics.

Cruz, who won a bronze

JON PEREZ Bonnylynn Cruz hangs on for a successful attempt in the clean and jerk during last Saturday's qualifying event of the CNMI Weightlifting Federation at the Latte Built 24-Hour Fitness Center in San Jose.



medal in the 2015 Micronesia Weightlifting Invitational, lifted 52kgs in the snatch and 77kgs in the clean and jerk in her final attempts for a total of 129kgs. Her previous attempts in the snatch were 43kgs and 48kgs, while her first and second tries in the clean and jerk were 62kgs and 70kgs each.

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Saipan Tribune in semis

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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Saipan Tribune clinched a semis slot in the 2017 Tan Holdings Inter-Company Basketball League after beating POI Avi-

ation, 58-47, in the final elimination round game last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Saipan Tribune finished the elimination with a 5-5 record to rank third in the team

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Saipan Tribune's

Djay Ong, center, challenges the defense of two POI Aviation players during the first half of their game in the 2017 Tan Holdings Inter-Company Basketball League last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.